

75¢

Torres tells US Senate of NMI's COVID-19 challenges. **PAGE 4**

Search for missing Jason Fitial continues. **PAGE 4**

Hafa Adai!

Happy 74th Liberation Day!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY JULY 3, 2020

Volume XXX, Issue No. 131

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

No regular international flights from Asia 'til Sept.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is getting ready to open and accept international flights by July 15, flights from Asia would not be coming until September 2020.

» **Jeju Air charter arriving Monday**
» **CPA board OKs 50% discount to airlines**

As this developed, the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors adopted
See FLIGHTS on Page 4

Request to seize IPI money is denied



Manglona

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied yesterday two other requests by a contractor to seize Imperial
See REQUEST on Page 4

Power and water outages hit Saipan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Large swaths of Saipan had no electricity and experienced water supply outages for several hours yesterday after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Power Plant 1 in Lower Base experienced electrical problems.



Camacho

It wasn't island-wide, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho, but still affected large areas on Saipan.

The outage began at about 11:50am in some areas under three circuits and
See POWER on Page 4

3 in quarantine, last active case for release

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are currently three non-resident passengers who are in quarantine at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, while the last active case, who is also at Kanoa Resort, is expected to be released from isolation today.

These three passengers are

paying for their time in quarantine, as well as for their
See ACTIVE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 2, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	267	13	280
Recovered	179	0	179
Active	83	13	96
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	14,053		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,217**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

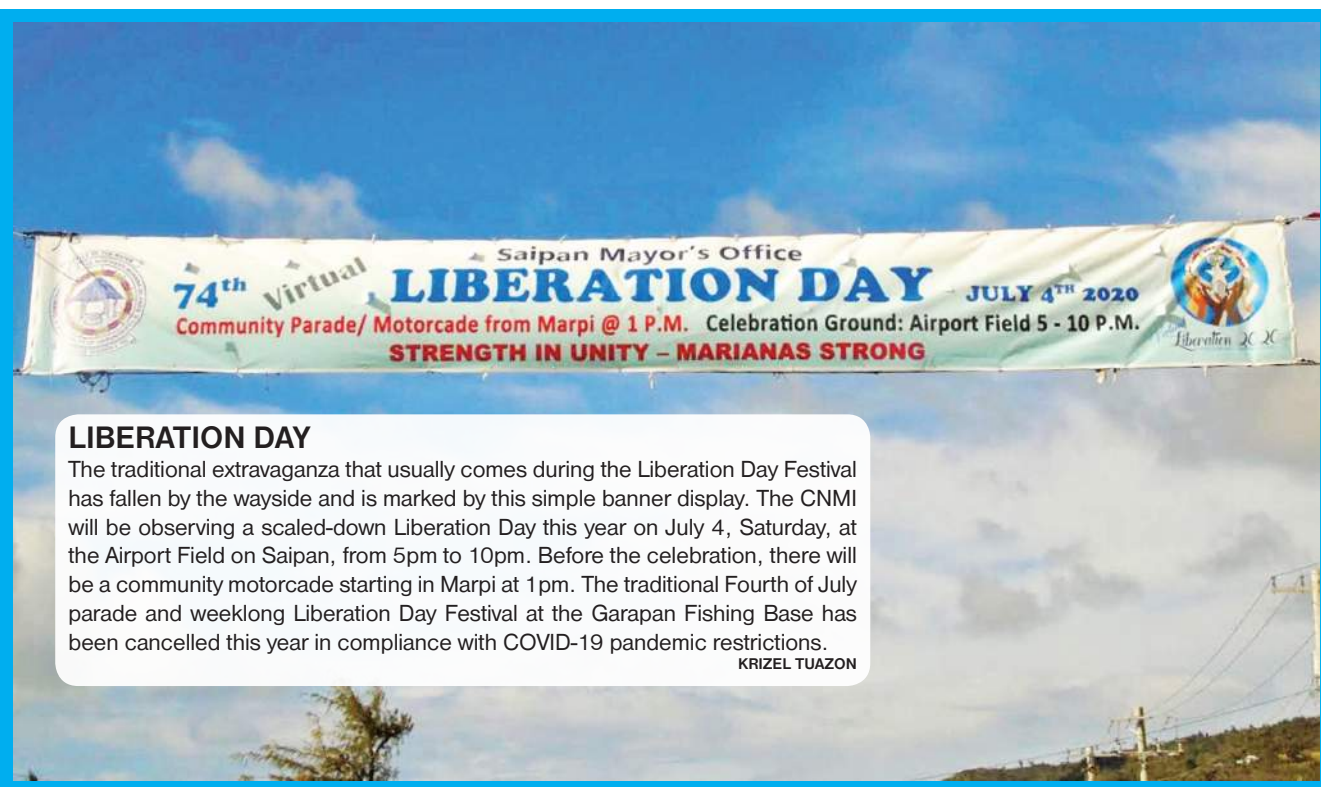
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



LIBERATION DAY

The traditional extravaganza that usually comes during the Liberation Day Festival has fallen by the wayside and is marked by this simple banner display. The CNMI will be observing a scaled-down Liberation Day this year on July 4, Saturday, at the Airport Field on Saipan, from 5pm to 10pm. Before the celebration, there will be a community motorcade starting in Marpi at 1pm. The traditional Fourth of July parade and weeklong Liberation Day Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base has been cancelled this year in compliance with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

KRIZEL TUAZON

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's teppanyaki restaurant has reopened at 20% off to residents.

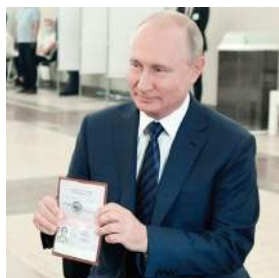
PAGE 15



ASIA

Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai says the Hong Kong he once knew is now dead.

PAGE 18



WORLD

Russian voters allow President Vladimir Putin to potentially hold power until 2036.

PAGE 19



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Atalig to Rota delegation: \$290K unavailable for re-appropriation

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota delegation would have to find another source of funding for local programs, following a recent certification from the Department of Finance showing their outstanding obligation of over \$300,000.

Finance Secretary David Atalig certified that the appropriated \$290,000 under Public Law 21-10 is unavail-

able for re-appropriation, an amount Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) aims to tap through House Bill 21-116 for Rota interisland medical referral patients and hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

The bill is now at the Senate following unanimous passage in the House of Representatives last month.

In a letter to Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Atalig stated that, as of June 25, the

Rota Legislative Delegation has an outstanding obligation of \$331,709. This includes an over-appropriation of the annual license fee by \$274,032 in fiscal year 2018, and the \$57,677 the Office of the Governor loaned the Rota Little League Association in 2018, for a tournament in Korea.

"Therefore, I hereby certify the appropriated \$290,000 under P.L. 21-10 Section 2 § a(2)(A) unavailable for re-

appropriation," Atalig wrote.

Santos earlier urged against the reprogramming of Rota funds, and sought the Department of Finance's official accounting, following Manglona's introduction of the bill.

"The \$290,000 appropriated under P.L. 21-10 cannot be reprogrammed for any other purposes. The \$290,000 was appropriated under P.L. 21-10 as partial payment to the \$564,000 that the Rota

Legislative Delegation owes Finance pursuant to previous local appropriations," the senator said. "With this said, to continue appropriating funds to accommodate

our locally created programs, most especially those medically and educationally related, our delegation should identify new or other sources of funding."

HOPE Recovery Center to reopen on July 6

The Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor said yesterday that the HOPE Recovery Center will resume services on Monday, July 6, 2020.

Yvette R. Sablan, the special assistant for Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation, said that client homes and office spaces have been fully sanitized, and preventive measures are in place.

"As we are working responsibly with the challenges we have been facing through this global pandemic, SAAR has made interim changes within the program to ensure a continued quality of service. And while certain services will be limited or temporarily suspended, such as the Intensive Outpatient or outpatient treatment, this basically limits our overall services to our participants only. Acceptance into the program is processed and approved jointly by the clinical manager and the group home manager," Sablan said.

SAAR certified clinician and clinical manager Dorene Kintol explained that the Hope Recovery Center is for individuals who need

"a safe, sober supportive environment and structure to learn, practice, and integrate coping and relapse prevention skills." She said there is individual therapy, group sessions, family education, and life skills. Case management is also provided for medication management, mental health evaluation and therapy, employment and vocational training, and support to address overall crisis.

SAAR Group home manager Jayra Manglona notes that the 24-hour staffed group home component provides stability and minimizes or prevents relapse or continued use.

"Our goal is to ensure that the individual can practice and improve their interpersonal and life skills, which supports their reintegration efforts," said Manglona.

Sablan emphasized that SAAR is ready to carry on its role in helping people get the treatment they need.

SAAR is currently not accepting walk-ins at the moment. Contact the HOPE Recovery Center at 323-HOPE (323-4673) to schedule an appointment and get further guidance. (PR)

STAY FREE AND SAFE

this July 4th



CNMI Department of Public Safety

For more information call:

SAIPAN: 664-9001/2 | TINIAN: 433-9222 | ROTA: 532-9433

The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Diabetes and Your Dental Health!

- Did you know that people with diabetes are more vulnerable to the millions of germs that live in your mouth?
- Did you know that people with diabetes are more likely to have infections of their gums and the bones that hold the teeth in place?
- Did you know that diabetes also causes a decrease in blood supply to gums making them more susceptible to the disease?
- Did you know that high blood sugars may cause dry mouth and make gum disease worse? (The decrease in saliva can cause an increase in tooth decaying bacteria and plaque build up.)

If you have diabetes, be sure to have a dental checkup at least twice a year.

Remember, you CAN prevent diabetes.

AWARD-WINNING
DENTISTS

DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE



Paradise Dental



Middle Road, Gualo Rai

234-4040

paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com

US House locks in insular water/sewer funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives passed a sweeping infrastructure bill yesterday, including an amendment by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) that locks in a major increase in funding for water projects in the insular areas and about \$90 million for Marianas school facilities over the next five years.

The Moving Forward Act will also provide \$10 million annually for federal roads in the Marianas and a \$400,000 annual increase for the islands' new public bus system. Sablan's legislation to expand the Amber Alert system to include the Marianas and other insular areas was also added to the bill.

Sablan's amendment to the Moving Forward Act makes permanent a 1.5% set-aside of Safe Drinking Water Act funds for the insular areas. Current law authorizes only 0.33%. The Moving Forward Act also codifies a 1.5% annual set-aside for insular areas of Clean Water Act funds from the current 0.25%.

The Marianas delegate has been able to get both increases into annual appropriations bills since 2010 and into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Those yearly changes have been worth \$85 million to the Marianas in total

and made 24-hour water possible for residents of Saipan.

"Making this increase in water infrastructure funding permanent will give planners at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. more certainty," Sablan said, "and means we will continue to improve our water systems."

"Ultimately, we want everyone to have access to drinkable water in their homes and end the discharge of sewage into the waters around our islands."

Members of Congress submitted 388 amendments to the Moving Forward Act, but the Rules Committee permitted less than half to be brought to the House floor for debate and a vote. Sablan was a cosponsor of the bill.

Schools bill included

Sablan got another legislative project through the House: a \$100 billion investment in schools nationwide.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, Sablan is responsible for federal school policy across the U.S. A major infrastructure investment was at the top of his subcommittee's agenda; and Sablan made sure to include a special \$500 million set-aside for schools

in the Marianas, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Funds are allocated based on the number of children from low-income families in each jurisdiction. Another \$300 million is provided for childcare facilities in the insular areas.

This Rebuild America's Schools Act was favorably reported out of committee last year, but the House had not moved on the legislation. The coronavirus, which forced schools to close and shift to online instruction, added new urgency. The legislation was renamed the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act and added to the Moving Forward Act.

During floor debate Tuesday, Sablan noted that many state and local governments are facing revenue shortfalls, as a result of the virus, and laying off teaching staff.

The Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act is aimed at problems created by the coronavirus. "Funds are front-loaded to address emergency needs to reconfigure schools to meet [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines," Sablan said. "[And the] bill helps the 16 million students without online access, gain reliable, high-speed Internet for digital

instruction."

The Act also includes a \$50 monthly subsidy for low-income families to pay for internet and \$625 million for states and territories to implement "digital equity" plans.

Transportation

Although expanded to cover investments in schools and broadband, as well as \$20 billion in grant funds for hospitals and community health centers and \$70 billion for renewable energy systems—

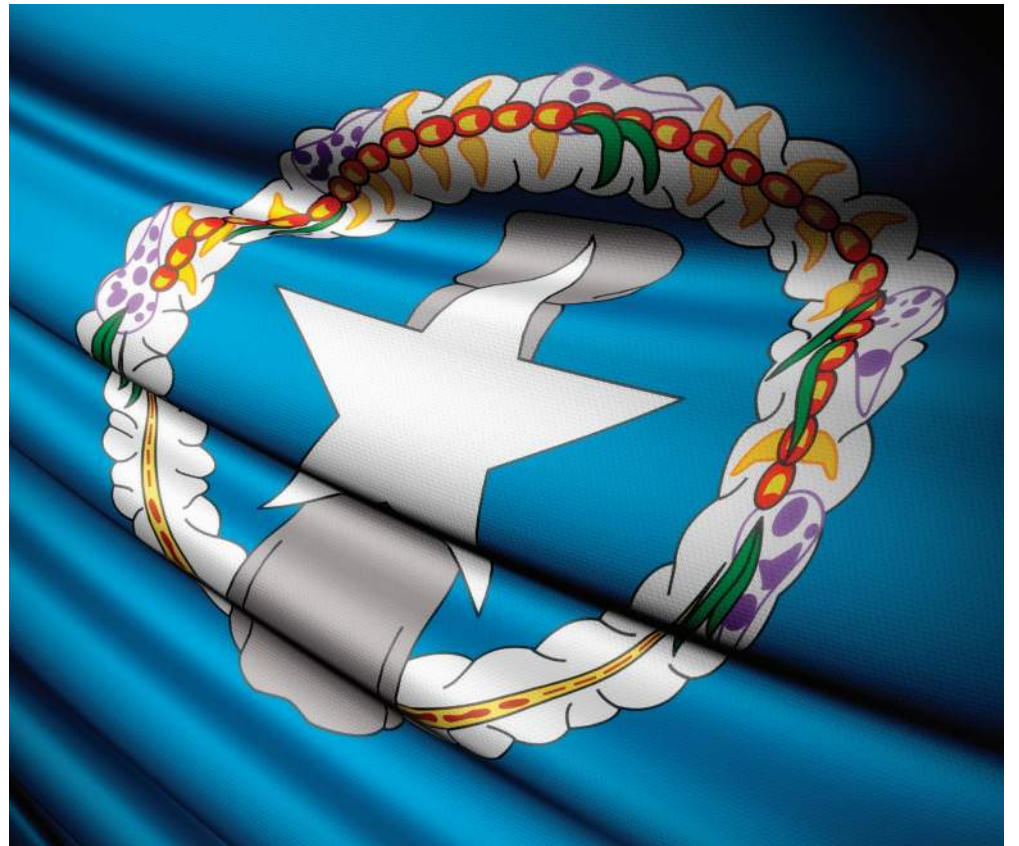
all of which the Marianas is eligible for—the foundation of the \$1.5 trillion Moving Forward Act is a five-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs.

There, too, the Marianas saw increases. The Territorial Highway Fund, which distributes money to the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, was increased from \$42 million to \$100 million annually. And the annual transit grant that pays for the Marianas new public bus system will go up \$400,000.

The CNMI receives 10%

of the Territorial Highway Fund money each year. Sablan has worked to improve the CNMI's rate of spending and reduce its backlog of federal money, in order to make an argument for increasing the Marianas annual percentage. The allocation decision is made by the Federal Highway Administration.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where it is unclear what action the Republican majority will take. President Trump issued a statement saying he would veto the Moving Forward Act, if it reached his desk. (PR)



Happy Liberation Day!

First Hawaiian Bank proudly salutes our heroes who have offered their lives for our liberty.

Together, we are committed to preserving our freedom for future generations.



First Hawaiian Bank.

IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

fhb.com
Member FDIC

HAPPY Liberation Day

This Independence Day, take a step back and cherish your life and the country you live in while appreciating the sacrifices people made to give us independence today.

STORE HOURS:

MIDDLE ROAD STORE: - 6:30AM TO 10:00 PM DAILY
GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:30AM TO 10:00PM DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577
Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • Email: admin@jcamcd.com

Torres tells US Senate of NMI's COVID-19 challenges

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres brought the CNMI's issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic to the U.S. Senate in order to apprise it of how it is affecting U.S. territories.

In a written testimony to U.S.

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during a hearing last June 30, 2020, in Washington, D.C., Torres laid out all the initiatives the government has done—from his declaration of a state of significant emergency in January, up to the widespread community based testing covering 15% of the

CNMI population, one of the largest relative populations tested in the nation.

The committee hearing, which intended to examine the impact of COVID-19 on U.S. territories, also heard

from Torres the economic downturn the CNMI is experiencing as a result of the pandemic.

"The dramatic fiscal shortfall resulting in from the elimination of the CNMI's sole industry will have deep

and lasting impacts to the lives of our people for years to come."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

POWER

From Page 1

then at 2pm in other areas under three other circuits. As of 4:25pm, Camacho said CUC personnel were almost done with reassembling work.

"They've done a great job and safety is paramount," Camacho said.

He expected all areas to get their power and water supply back at 5pm yesterday.

As of 2pm CUC announced that their electricians were assessing the electrical panels and switch gears in the control room at Power Plant 1 to determine the problem so they could make the necessary emergency repairs. Camacho said six different circuits have been de-energized so that power plant personnel can safely work on the equipment.

"It is anticipated that the work will take approximately three to four hours to complete so power to the affected areas will remain offline through 5pm Thursday," said Camacho in a CUC press release.

Because the problem involves the electrical equipment in the Power Plant control room, multiple circuits encompassing a large part of the island's electrical grid were affected, he said.

CUC said restoration of water services to the affected areas will resume after power is restored.

Customers in the affected areas experienced low pressure to no water for two to three hours as the water system pressure stabilizes.

Areas affected for power were Garapan, Lower Base, Puerto Rico, Chalan Laulau, San Jose, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Airport Road, San Vicente, Papago, Upper and Lower Dandan, Obyan, As Perdido, As Lito, Koblerville, Afetnas, San Antonio, Susupe, China Town, As Gonno, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao, Oleai, Gualo Rai, and As Falape.

Areas affected for water were Gualo Rai (portion of Middle Road from Gualo Rai Road to Taro Sue), As Falape area, Lower Dandan, portions of Kannat Tabla, As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido, and Koblerville.

and closure of IPI's payroll account with the Bank of Saipan.

IPI, through counsel Michael Dotts, recently asked the District Court to deny Pacific Rim's third application for a writ of execution that seeks a court order to seize and sell IPI property at the Imperial Pacific Resort & Casino in Garapan like furniture, fixtures, equipment, cash, and vehicles.

Dotts said IPI has satisfied about \$3.1 million of the judgment following the court's first and second writs of execution, but the \$6.9 million has not been satisfied in full.

Thus, Dotts pointed out, Pacific Rim must apply for an order in aid of judgment, which Pacific Rim counsel Colin Thompson subsequently did.

Manglona earlier granted Pacific Rim's petitions for first and second writ of execution that ordered the U.S. Marshals Service to seize IPI's money from four banks, including Bank of Saipan, and two title companies on Saipan to satisfy the \$6.9-million judgment.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees, amending the judgment to \$6.9 million plus post-judgment interest.

IPI appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's judgment.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators, claiming it has substantially completed or completed the agreed-upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018.

IPI has countersued.

Search for Fitial continues

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The search for Jason Fitial continues, with members of the Refaluwasch community working to help the Department of Public Safety determine his whereabouts.

According to a public post on Facebook by one of the community's members, Gordon Marciano, over 40 men and women from the Refaluwasch community gathered last week to search for Fitial, who reportedly went missing sometime on June 12.

The Refaluwasch community is reportedly continuing its search for

Fitial, working alongside DPS who has no new updates on the case.

DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan said that, as of yesterday, DPS has not been able to locate Fitial since the report that he was missing was filed over two weeks ago.

"At this moment in time, we have conducted multiple searches around the areas [where] he was last sighted. The department will continue to entertain any new credible leads that come in. We encourage the public to share any [information], no matter how insignificant it may seem, by calling 911 or the Crimes Stoppers hotline," he said.

As for the rumor that has been circulating around the community about

Fitial's body being found in the Oleai village this past week, Pangelinan said this rumor is false.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, DPS received a 911 call last June 12, at about 1:44pm, reporting a possible missing individual in San Jose, Saipan. Family members told the officer that Fitial was last seen on Wednesday, June 10, at about 9:30am.

He had arrived at their home in San Jose and asked to borrow a machete to cut down some fruits from a nearby tree. The family member did not check to see if Fitial went into the wooded area behind the home.

Fitial was last seen wearing a blue, red, and yellow striped shirt and a pair of short pants.

ACTIVE

From Page 1

testing, based on the new directive, according to Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez. Being put in quarantine after arriving on Saipan used to be at the expense of the CNMI government but that policy has been changed, starting last June 20. Now, all incoming passengers are placed in quarantine and are tested on the fifth day. Those who test negative are then released.

Meanwhile, Esther Muña, chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., said the last active COVID-19 case at the Kanoa Resort is stable and will be released today, July 3.

Village-based testing

Villagomez stated that both the COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC are in the final stages with the village-based

testing, which includes deciding the processes that they will need to follow.

"We're in the final stage, to actually come up and decide the approaches because we have other options that we're also discussing with CHCC to better plan [this] out," said Villagomez, adding that, once they have everything in place, and they're ready to head out into the communities, CHCC and the task force want to make sure that everything's ready for the testing.

Since schools will be reopening come August, CHCC and the task force need to be able to have a solid plan to make sure they have all the necessary parts of their plan to fully function.

Villagomez stated that efforts are still ongoing with clinics reaching out to people who are registered as homebound. This will be helpful for CHCC and the task force when it comes to testing those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

To date, the CNMI has 30 con-

firmed cases, with two deaths and no active cases.

COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center on Guam nine cases tested positive from Diagnostic Laboratory Services yesterday. Out of the nine cases at DLS, eight cases were household contacts to confirmed cases.

Additionally, the JIC reported last July 1 that four cases tested positive at the Department of Public Health and Social Service. Among the four cases confirmed by the Guam Public Health Laboratory, three were identified through community outreach and two cases reported household contact to confirmed cases.

To date, Guam has a total of 280 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 179 released from isolation, and 96 active cases. Out of the 280 confirmed cases, 234 are classified as civilians and 46 are military service members.

FLIGHTS

From Page 1

Wednesday a resolution that provides 50% discount on the enplanement, deplanement, and landing fees to both signatory and non-signatory airlines, due to circumstances caused by the COVID-19.

The discounted rates took effect on the day of the board meeting, July 1, and will last until Dec. 31, 2020. However, CPA executive director Chris Tenorio is authorized to amend the discounts at any time to reflect any changed circumstances related to COVID-19.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said in an interview that it's not only Skymark Airlines Inc. that is extending the suspension of flights until September, but also all airlines from China and South Korea.

King-Hinds said the only flight that is scheduled to come in is Jeju Air, which has a charter flight arriving this Monday, July 6.

"We are hearing that they [Jeju Air] might have another charter flight the following month but we have not received any confirmation," she said.

King-Hinds said that, pursuant to the requirements of the Coronavirus

Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, CPA can only give discount to airlines based on the loss of revenue. Right now, the maximum that they can give is actually 96% discount because United Airlines and Star Marianas are still operating.

"But other than that, yes, 50% discount. We are open to giving more if necessary. We just want to be here... for our airline industry partners who we're hoping to come back soon and we can get this economy going again," King-Hinds said.

She said the discount also applies to commuter airlines such as Star Marianas and United Airlines. "They're struggling too, even though they are in operation, and so hopefully this will give them some sort of a break," she said.

According to the CPA board resolution, CPA has experienced a dramatic reduction in visitor arrivals and these declines have led to a drastic and immediate decline in airport revenues. The resolution recognizes that the operation of international air carriers in the CNMI is crucial to the economic sustainability of both CPA and the entire CNMI as a tourism-based economy. The COVID-19 global pandemic has decreased the volume of international traffic at

CPA's airports by 96%. The resolution says CPA's airports are located in an isolated market that does not permit CPA to establish fees high enough to recover aeronautical costs but also low enough to attract customers. It states that the COVID-19 global pandemic has significantly affected the profitability of airlines operating in the CNMI, as evidenced by an airline's payment deferral request.

In reading the resolution, King-Hinds said the COVID-19 global pandemic has required CPA to implement "unpleasant and unavoidable" austerity measures.

King-Hinds said the funds received through the CARES Act will ensure that CPA's revenue bond debt service obligations will not be affected if certain airport fees and charges are discounted.

She said CPA must temporarily discount fees to ensure that air services will continue to be provided to the public, that CPA remains solvent, and that CPA can continue the safe operation of its airports.

Aside from King-Hinds, the resolution was approved by the other directors: Thomas P. Villagomez, Pete P. Reyes, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Barrie C. Toves, and Joseph M. Diaz. Director Roman T. Tudela abstained.

REQUEST

From Page 1

Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's money from Bank of Saipan and IPI's personal property.

Manglona will hear on July 23, 2020, to determine IPI's ability to pay and the fastest manner in which it can pay the balance of the \$6.9-million judgment to contractor Pacific Rim Land Development LLC.

Manglona denied without prejudice Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's third and fourth applications for a writ of execution. She said Pacific Rim may reapply, but it must demonstrate good cause why the court should issue a writ.

Additionally, Manglona noted that Pacific Rim has filed a second application for a writ of execution on IPI's accounts with the Bank of Saipan. Yet the court's clerk already issued a writ of execution on the Bank of Saipan account last June 9 and the U.S. Marshal Service has already executed the writ and Bank of Saipan gave the court a check. She said Pacific Rim does not explain why an additional writ on the Bank of Saipan account should be issued, nor does this court see any difference between the writ being requested and the writ that was previously issued. Manglona said if Pacific Rim files a new application for this writ, it must explain why the court should issue the duplicative writ.

Hundreds of IPI construction workers recently held protests in front of the District Court after they failed to get their two paychecks allegedly because of the court's writ of execution that resulted in the seizure

Manibusan joins call for more teeth in fight vs shell companies

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has joined a bipartisan group of attorneys general urging the U.S. Senate to pass a law that intends to fight shell companies that are being used by criminals.

S. 2563, the Improving Laundering Laws and Increasing Comprehensive Information Tracking of Criminal Activity in Shell Holdings, or ILLICIT CASH, Act, updates the federal framework for fighting money laundering and terrorism financing, which

has not been comprehensively reassessed since its inception in the 1970s.

It creates new tools for information sharing between financial institutions and law enforcement. Along with that, the proposed Act requires a covered entity to report its "beneficial owners," the actual people who benefit from or control the entity.

"Today, I join my colleagues of chief legal officers in advocating to the U.S. Senate to pass legislation that will

help local and federal law enforcement identify businesses and individuals engaged in criminal activity, especially through shell corporations," said Manibusan. "Any businesses or individuals in the Commonwealth found concealing illegal transactions will be held accountable under this proposed statute."

In their letter, the attorneys general recognize that many states and territories do not have the ability to track information on the actual people

who control or benefit from corporations and other entities doing business there. Without that information, states cannot know if an entity is a shell for concealing the illicit proceeds of criminals like drug traffickers, terrorist financiers, tax evaders and corrupt government officials.

Under the ILLICIT CASH Act, certain business entities will have to disclose a "beneficial owner" to the federal government. A beneficial owner is a "natural person" who controls

an entity, owns at least 25% of it, or receives economic benefits from it. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the U.S. Department of Treasury will then keep all the disclosed beneficial ownership information in a federal registry.

The Act requires FinCEN to release beneficial ownership information to law enforcement agencies, including at the local and state levels.

Manibusan joins 42 attorneys general in sending the letter: Alabama, Alaska, Ar-

kansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. (PR)

Toys & Clothes

for children
ages 0 to 10

new arrivals
rubik's cubes,
board games & more!



Happy Liberation Day!

LOLLIPOPS

BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Mon - Sat: 9am to 5pm & Sun: 10am to 4pm
TEL. 234-8040

Like us on
Facebook

a boutique for Tween girls

ages 8-12

Dresses, Tees, skirts,
jeans, shorts, and Accessories!

**20% off selected
Jr Tops & Jumpsuits**







Happy 4th of July!!!

Girl Talk

FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Swirls
Mon - Thurs: 10am to 4pm
Fri - Sat: 10am to 5pm • Sun - CLOSED
TEL 233-8050


Like us on
Facebook












MARIANAS STRONG

Let us pay tribute to those before us who paved the path
to make our islands a better place for our future generations.



In Celebration of our 74th Liberation Day

TRIPLE J CORPORATE OFFICE
Ground Flr., Surfrider Resort Hotel Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa • Tel: 234-1795 • FAX: 234-7347 • EMAIL: info@triplejsaipan.com • www.triplej.net



BAKERY & CAFE
Bread. The way it ought to be.

FRESH BAKED.

Corn Tortilla



Whole Wheat Tortilla



Flour Tortilla



Bread Bowl



Hotdog Bun



French Bread



Sourdough



Asiago Sourdough



Burger Bun



Taro Dinner Rolls



Honey Whole Wheat



Hi-5 Fiber



Dakota



Farm House White



Garlic Cheddar



Taro



BREADS & GOODIES

Pick up today!

Mon-Sat: 7a - 7p • Sun: 7a-3p
Call: (670)234-BRED

Like our pages  @greatharvestbreadsaiipan
 @greatharvestsaipan

We deliver! We cater! Email: marketing@greatharvestsaipan.com

“May we think of freedom,
not as the right to do as we please,
but as the opportunity
to do what is right.”

*Blessed
Liberation Day
to all!*

From the management and staff of

Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

**HEALTH
IS
WEALTH**

**Tan Siu Lin
Foundation**

A powerful country made
a strong history with its courage
and determination.

Wishing you great joy
on this sparkling day!

*Happy
Liberation Day!*

Hafa Adai! from the staff and management of
Saipan Tribune

NMC's PLAP set to resume

The Prior Learning Assessment Program, which allows individuals to get college credit for knowledge that are gained outside the traditional classroom environment, will resume this fall semester at the Northern Marianas College.

According to NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, PLAP will allow for the college to award individuals up to a certain number of credits or individuals who have gained a substantial amount of knowledge/training from being in the workforce. This will allow individuals to convert that knowledge into credits to get their desired degree.

Eliptico said there have been successful individuals who have taken advantage of the program and earned/finished their college degree.

For the upcoming fall semester, NMC is leaning toward a hybrid approach that would allow NMC to mix physical classes with virtual classes.

Eliptico said the hybrid approach will help NMC decide which classes can be successfully offered online and to see that the quality that will be produced will be maintained entirely online. Furthermore,

he stated that the default is to have it online. “But if there are components of the class, for example if there’s a lab component, whether it’s a science class or it’s another class that involves some sort of hands-on or face-to-face requirement, that will be accommodated in person,” Eliptico said.

Additionally, NMC wants to avoid face-to-face interaction as much as possible for safety purposes and if they’re not entirely necessary. As far as in-person components, social distancing will be enforced and the spaces will be maximized between students.

“For those classes that can be successfully offered throughout the whole semester online, we will do that, but there are some classes that... need that in-person element, and those classes will then have components of the semester in person,” Eliptico said.

Eliptico wants to be sure that each class can maintain the quality of instruction, as well as engagement between students will remain throughout the whole semester. For more information you can go to: www.marianas.edu.
(Justine Nauta)

Rotary inducts new officers

The Rotary Club Saipan inducted a new set of officers led by Sonya Dancoe last Tuesday night at Surf Club Saipan.

Dancoe was inducted Rotary president, along with Sean Ficke as president-elect, Wendell Posadas as vice president, Irene Nepomuceno Holl as secretary, Ryan Yulo as treasurer, Curtis Dancoe as sergeant-at-arms, director Jessy Loomis for Club Service, director Ivan Ilmov for International Service, director Joseph Torres for Vocational Service, director Joann Aquino for Community Service, director Gregory Borja for New Generation, and director Das Krishnan for Rotary Foundation.

The newly inducted officers will serve in the Rotary years 2020-2021.

Krishnan was also recognized as the Rotarian of the Year during the installation event.

“This year, my goals are very simple. First is to bring innovative way to be a more vibrant and active club and second is to implement more sustainable projects and pro-

grams that aim to foster peace and youth involvement. ... We will also mentor, promote, and bring young leaders to the forefront,” said Dancoe.

She also promised that, together with the newly installed officers and directors, she will work with the district group leader to collaborate and share plans for this year and other long range goals.

“It is exciting to see many new faces in our club and I am proud to serve alongside a group of amazing members ready to serve as officers and director,” Dancoe said. “I call each Rotarian to join me in unison, show our Rotary spirit and let us put the gears in motions with great vigor to promote the ideals of Rotary. I would like to ask people of the CNMI and our visitors to be courteous to others by keeping our island peaceful and beautiful so we can continue to do more in our community.”

The Rotary Club of Saipan is celebrating 52 years of service in the CNMI this year.
(Chevy Alipio)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FHB Saipan branches open on Friday

All First Hawaiian Bank branches on Saipan will be open on Friday, July 3, from 9am to 4pm. (PR)

Traffic cases moved to July 23

This is to inform the public that traffic arraignment hear-

ings that were scheduled for July 2 have been rescheduled to July 23, 2020, at 9am, at Courtroom 212B on the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. For additional information, you may contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at telephone number 234-4253, 783-8417, or 783-8522.

US FLAGS  25% OFF	COOLERS & BARBEQUE GRILLS  25% OFF	SPORTING GOODS  25% OFF	PLASTIC HOUSEWARES  25% OFF	
HANDBAGS & WALLETS  25% OFF	SWIMMING GOODS  25% OFF	SOUVENIRS  25% OFF	COMFORTERS  25% OFF	MENS TEE SHIRTS  25% OFF
LADIES BRAS  25% OFF	LADIES BLOUSES & SHORTS  25% OFF	INFANT SETS  25% OFF	WATCHES  20% OFF	SHOES & SANDALS  20% OFF

2020 4th of July Weekend Sale

INDEPENDENCE DAY Friday, July 03 to Monday, July 06, 2020

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20#  \$12	US SMOKED PICNIC HAM  \$1⁵⁰/lb.	TABLE MAPLE BACON 1#  \$2	ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz  \$1⁵⁰ ea.	DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50#  \$29
HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk  \$6⁹⁸	CHIVAS REGAL SCOTCH WHISKY 12YR 700ml  \$30 ea.	CORONA REGULAR BEER BOTTLE 12oz  \$2 ea.	JOETEN HAND SANITIZER 80% ALC 2.7 LTR  \$18 ea.	JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk  \$3

MARKET/ORGANIC ITEMS AVAILABLE

Hafa Adai BAKERY HOT DOG BUNS  8pc/pk \$2⁹⁵	Latte Cafe FRAPPE/WHIPPED CREAM  MOCHA FRAPPE \$5⁰⁰ 16oz CARAMEL FRAPPE \$6⁵⁰ 22oz GREEN TEA FRAPPE CHOCO MINT	AIKO'S RAMEN MABO TOFU RAMEN  \$12 KARAAAGE  \$9⁹⁵ Big \$7⁵⁰ Small	MULTI TOILET TISSUE ECO 10 ROLLS  \$2⁹⁹	U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ/TRY  \$1⁹⁹	LIBBY'S VIENNA SAUSAGE 4.6z (18pcs)  \$9⁹⁹ 1cs.	AJAX LEMON DISH LIQUID 28oz  \$1⁹⁹ ea.
SPRINGFIELD OIL VEGETABLE 1GAL  \$6⁹⁹ ea.	JIM'S INST COFFEE 3-IN-1 25x20g  \$2⁷⁵ ea.	SUPERSOFT NAPKINS 160ct WHT  \$1⁹⁹	KORDITE PLATES 8 7/8 22ct WHT  99¢			

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
 Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
 PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

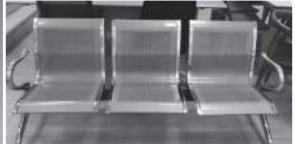
NEW ARRIVAL

LAVATORY FAUCET,
MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS,
G.I. PIPES, SQUARE
TUBES,
SHORING JACK PIPE,
ROOFING TIN
& MANY MORE
ABS, CPVC, PVC,
CONDUIT PIPES
& FITTINGS ARE
ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS,
WATER HEATER &
WINDOWS

NEW ARRIVAL Furniture



*Make a Difference
for Your House!*



NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT

It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!



LED LIGHTS

- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488

E-mail: guangdong_hardware@163.com

BUSINESS HOURS:

**Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



Labor provides update on PUA and FPUC programs

To date, the CNMI Department of Labor has received nearly 5,000 applications for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Unemployment Compensation programs.

To ensure the integrity of these federal programs, each PUA application is carefully reviewed as the data is entered into the Department of Labor's online portal. In addition, more than 2,000 inquiries have been received via the CNMI DOL telephone lines, the PUA/FPUC designated hotlines, and the PUA/FPUC email.

To assist the PUA applicant with their application processing, note the following:

■ The term "unemployment," as it relates to PUA means you have been furloughed, laid-off, or working reduced hours as a result of

COVID-19.

■ On the initial PUA application, the "last day work" is the date your employment was affected as a result of COVID-19. For those who were furloughed, laid-off, or working hours less than customary hours, that is the date this took effect for the PUA applicant.

We have also received numerous reports from PUA claimants that they are experiencing challenges with the online portal, such as:

■ "The 'Northern Mariana Islands' is not an option for STATE." To resolve this issue, indicate "U.S. Minor Outlying Islands" for STATE.

■ "After completing the Initial PUA Claim, PUA Claimants are given a Claims Summary and the Weekly Benefit Amount of \$173." This is an

error on the online portal that has been brought to the attention to the Web provider for improvement and correction.

A second webinar is being

planned for early July, which will focus on the initial PUA Application and the Weekly Benefit Request.

The CNMI Department of

Labor has installed additional telephone numbers for PUA inquiries: 670-664-3296, 670-664-3297, 670-664-3299, and 670-664-3296. (PR)

TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

USCIS hosting naturalization ceremonies nationwide

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is celebrating the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States by hosting naturalization ceremonies across the country from July 1 through July 7. Despite the pandemic, USCIS continues to welcome new citizens, demonstrating American resiliency and the importance of our independence.

USCIS began to conduct limited naturalization ceremonies in May and began to fully resume ceremonies in early June, after temporarily pausing in-person services to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ceremonies have been shorter to limit exposure to those in attendance, incorporating social distancing and other safety precautions that protect the health and safety of applicants and USCIS staff.

USCIS has naturalized approximately 64,500 new citizens over the past month and anticipates completing nearly all postponed administrative naturalization ceremonies by the end of July.

"Taking the oath of alle-

giance and embracing U.S. citizenship is a remarkable act of patriotism. We are a stronger nation today because of those who have chosen to become naturalized citizens," said USCIS deputy director for Policy Joseph Edlow. "I am proud of the USCIS employees who have worked diligently to ensure that our agency can conduct safe, yet meaningful, naturalization ceremonies during these difficult times."

USCIS is committed to promoting assimilation, awareness and understanding of citizenship by offering a variety of free citizenship preparation resources for applicants and teachers, including materials like the *Establishing Independence* lesson plan in the Citizenship Resource Center. Immigrant-serving organizations can register to receive a free Civics and Citizenship Toolkit to help lawful permanent residents prepare for naturalization.

USCIS continues to encourage applicants to file their Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, online. To file online, individuals must first create a USCIS online account

at myaccount.uscis.dhs.gov.

Naturalization is the most significant benefit USCIS offers. Immigrants who lawfully join our country through naturalization express their attachment to our Constitution and commitment to assimilate into our society.

We invite new citizens and their families and friends to share their experiences and photos from the ceremonies on social media using the hashtags #newUSCitizen, and #IndependenceDay.

For more information on the naturalization process and filing online, visit our website at uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and LinkedIn. (USCIS)

USCIS extends flexibility for responding to USCIS requests

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is extending the flexibilities it announced on March 30, 2020, to assist applicants, petitioners and requestors who are responding to certain:

- Requests for Evidence;
- Continuations to Request Evidence (N-14);
- Notices of Intent to Deny;
- Notices of Intent to Revoke;
- Notices of Intent to Rescind and Notices of Intent to Terminate regional investment centers;
- Filing date requirements for Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings (Under Section 336 of the INA); and
- Filing date requirements for Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion.

This flexibility applies to the documents listed above if the issuance date listed on the request, notice, or decision is between March 1 and Sept. 11, 2020.

USCIS will consider a response to a request or notice listed above received within 60 calendar days after the response due date set in the request or notice before taking any action. We will consider a Form I-290B or a Form N-336 received up to 60 calendar days from the date of the decision before we take any action.

We will provide further updates as the situation develops and will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance. Visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for the latest facts and other USCIS updates. (USCIS)

It is the love of country that has lighted and that keeps glowing the holy fire of patriotism.

HAPPY
Liberation
Day

From the staff and management



SAIPAN

Latitude 15° 12' N | Longitude 145° 45' E

SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, INC.

TEL: 670-322-9706
FAX: 670-322-3183/1981

EMAIL: saiship@saipanshipping.com
www.saipanshipping.com

TINIAN

Latitude 15° | Longitude 145° 38' E

TINIAN MARINE STEVEDORE, INC.

TEL: 670-322-9240

FAX: 670-322-8568
EMAIL: saisteve@pticom.com

ROTA

Latitude 14° 10' N | Longitude 145° 15' E

ISLA SHIPPING, ROTA

TEL: 670-532-3117

FAX: 670-532-9888
EMAIL: islashipping@yahoo.com

GUAM

Latitude 13° 30' N | Longitude 144° 40' E

MARIANAS STEAMSHIP AGENCIES, INC.

TEL: 671-633-6740/6741

FAX: 671-633-6737/6742
EMAIL: info@msa-guam.com
www.msa-guam.com

Inter-Island Cargo • Shipping Agency • Vessel Operator • Charterers

NMI Museum removes vegetation from Japanese bunker



File photo shows NMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino being interviewed
KRIZEL TUAZON

The NMI Museum has taken emergency preventive measures to ease the stress on the Japanese bunker's roof located on its grounds.

NMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino stated that he had asked for help from the Saipan Mayor's Office for a back hoe, but it was only available last June 24, 2020. To ease the stress on the sole deteriorating column supporting the bunkers roof, Aquino directed the removal of vegetation from the roof of the bunker.

"The Japanese bunker can no longer adequately support the additional stress and weight from the vegetation and soil, most especially after it rains. I don't want to wait and see something terrible happen that may cause bodily harm or serious injuries occurring if and when the bunker collapses from the weight on

the roof," he said.

Aquino is requesting the Saipan local delegation for \$750,000 funding to repair and preserve the Japanese bunker, the Japanese jail, and to close a pavilion for a climate controlled storage facility.

He pointed out that the museum, Sugar King Park, and the Japanese jail are tourist attraction sites and the CNMI's leaders "must determine if they share the same idea, hopes for success and the importance of preserving our history and culture and not use it as a talking point."

Aquino said that when he first took over the museum, "I was ashamed that tourist, students, and residents had to witness a deplorable museum and historical building (Japanese hospital) and the lack of concern or interest from people with authority to act on realistic funding that was

repeatedly requested by my predecessors."

Public Law 10-5 paved way for the establishment of the NMI Museum and the same public law also designated the museum as the official state repository but fell short of appropriating money for storage facilities. "I have expressed concerns to our leaders with the power to appropriate funding that the museum needs increased funding. The Senate has yet to act on House Bill 21-52 that will provide 20% of the non-alcoholic beverage container tax to support the museum."

Aquino pointed out that the

preservation of these historical buildings does not end with a fresh coat of paint or repair spalling on ceiling or walls, saying it's an ongoing process since each one of these buildings are over 90 year old. He said the NMI Museum is due for another protective coating of elastomeric. "Proper maintenance plan of any building regardless of age is necessary to avoid costly repairs, further damaging, or other problems evolving from the initial problem," he added.

At its last session, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropri-

ated \$38,000 to the museum, promising to provide the museum with necessary funding that will address the issues that Aquino had identified. Aquino said he was "very happy" that some delegation members reiterated their pledge immediately after the session to give the museum the increased funding it deserves to address repairs and preservation.

Aquino said that he reached out to the CNMI Historic Preservation Office to try and tap some of the \$5.1-million grant that was awarded to them, but he was informed that HPO could not assist with any re-

pairs on the NMI Museum's historical buildings and structures because the \$5.1 million was already committed and obligated for other projects.

"Mr. John Reyes and I have been looking for alternatives in form of grants to upgrade and enhance exhibits through digital technology and grants that are directed toward repairs and preservation. The museum is challenged but I am blessed to have flexible and a hardworking team of three individuals (James Macaranas, John David Reyes, Wenny Haruo) that are doing their best to keep our outdoor grounds and entire facilities clean, maintained, and preserved," Aquino said. (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

Tinian landfill hours

The Department of Public Works would like to inform the community that the Tinian landfill will be open today, July 2, and tomorrow, July 3, from 9am to 5pm. The dump will be closed on Saturday, July 4, in observance of the holiday. And regular operations will resume again on Monday, July 6. For more information, contact DPW's Solid Waste Division at (670) 433-3551. (PR)

APL fuel surcharge reduction

TAMUNING, Guam—APL reduced its Fuel Adjustment Factor for shipments to Guam and Saipan by 17% effective last July 1, 2020. This reduction also applies to export containers from Guam and Saipan to the U.S. APL

Guam general manager Charlie Hermosa said, "APL continues to evaluate the fuel index and therefore we will be making an adjustment that will greatly assist the business community with much needed cost relief in these challenging times. Our commitment to the community is that we will consistently evaluate the fuel market and make any necessary adjustments."

Reefer containers in and out of Guam and Saipan to the United States are also included in the reduction and will be at 14%. (PR)

Ortizo lands on dean's list

NEWARK, DE—Michael Roy Ortizo of Saipan has been named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the spring 2020 semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester. (PR)1



**ON LIBERATION DAY,
AND EVERYDAY,
GRILLING'S BETTER
WITH BUDS.**



HAPPY LIBERATION DAY, CNMI.

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY © Anheuser-Busch, Budweiser® Lager Beer, St. Louis, MO

Miss Marianas pageant for 2020 moved to next year

The 2020 Miss Marianas Pageant, which was originally scheduled for this summer, will now be held next year in the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 Miss International Pageant originally scheduled this October in Yokohama, Japan has also been postponed to next year.

Stellar Marianas, the is-

lands' nonprofit pageant and talent group, and host of the Marianas pageant, is appealing to the community for patience and assistance.

"We had to consider the

health and safety of our contestants, volunteers, families and supporters and we are most thankful for the support we continue to receive from our major sponsors and our community so we may be able to continue to provide positive events and activities," said Stellar Marianas national director Jaki Fujihira.

The current Miss Marianas, Shannon Sasamoto, who won the pageant in 2019, has volunteered to continue her reign and has lined up several community events and projects for the community. She helped sew over 200 face masks to donate to the Guardian Project and is launching the first Stellar Marianas National Costume Design Contest on Instagram. For more information, follow @missnorth-ernmarianas.

Miss Marianas Contestants, from 18 to 26 years old, considering to join the upcoming pageant, may send in an email for an application and packet to stellarqueens@gmail.com. (PR)



Shannon Sasamoto, the 2019 Miss Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOT awards CPA \$2.1M to complete Rota fencing, \$555K for ARFF improvements

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded CPA with \$2.1 million to complete the Rota perimeter fence and \$555,000 to make improvements at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station on Saipan.

Commonwealth Ports Authority



King-Hinds

board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that the two Airport Improvement Program grants are awarded based on national priorities.

"CPA is fortunate to have a good working relationship with our federal partners who are responsive in assisting the team to ensure that we are

eligible for these funds to continue capital improvements on all three islands," she said.

The two grants are part of the \$800 million that the Trump administration will award in airport safety and infrastructure grants through the Federal Aviation Administration to 46 states, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Marshall Islands. (Ferdie de la Torre)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447/234-7670; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Notice for Public Comment

THE ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE REPORT

July 3, 2020

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) would like to inform the general public that the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice Draft Report is available for public review.

The Analysis of Impediments will be available for public review beginning July 3, 2020 to July 15, 2020. Due to protocols to mitigate the spread of CoVid19, the Analysis of Impediments will be available for review on NMHC's website at www.nmhc.gov.net (tab titled "CDBG"), Office of the Governor's website at www.gov.mp, and on NMHC's Facebook page.

A Virtual Public Hearing on the AI report will be held via Zoom teleconference and Facebook Live on July 10, 2020 at 10:00a.m. The meeting ID and password is posted on the NMHC website.

Written comments on the AI Report should be submitted no later than Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 4:30 p.m. to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. You may also submit your comments via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp or orally at the virtual hearing scheduled above.

If you may have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at (670)234-6866/ or mobile (670)989-9448.

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any special accommodations please contact our office (48) hours in advance.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-023

CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Kirzite Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email kirzite.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

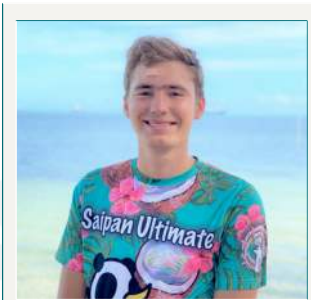
MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



MEET DCRM'S *2020 Summer Interns*

Every year, the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) gathers 15 interns to help raise community awareness of coral reef and coastal zone issues, threats, and the efforts underway to protect them. Our interns are provided with opportunities to receive practical hands-on training and work experience in resource management and are paired with an experienced mentor at various environmental agencies on Saipan. This year's partners include the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW).

DCRM IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE THIS YEAR'S INTERNSHIP COHORT



COLE CHAMBERS

Cole is an intern at the Division of Fish & Wildlife, Wildlife Section under the guidance of Emilie Kohler, Wildlife Biologist.



THOMAS BENAVENTE & RICHELLE RAMON

Thomas and Richelle are interns at the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Marine Monitoring Team under the guidance of David Benavente, Lead Biologist.



LANCE TUDELA, BRITNEY ESPINOSA, & MARVIN SABLAN

Lance, Britney and Marvin are interns at the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Shoreline Monitoring Program under the guidance of Mary Urena, Coastal Planner I.



SHELLA MAE RUIZ & ESTHER HUH

Shella Mae and Esther are interns at the Division of Coastal Resources Management, CRI/CZ Communications under the guidance of Colleen Flores, Communications Assistant, and Mallory Muña, CRI Communications Coordinator.



DANIEL JACK

Daniel is an intern at the Division of Environmental Quality, Pesticides Branch under the guidance of Zabrina Shai, Pesticides Program Manager.



JEFFERZON SAGUM

Jefferzon is an intern at the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Enforcement Section under the guidance of Tom Pangelinan, Enforcement Officer III.



WILEEN MONGAMI & LOGAN MISTER

Wileen and Logan are interns at the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Coral Reef Initiative under the guidance of Zachary Williams, Watershed Coordinator, and Ilan Bubb, Coral Fellow.



MARIA TERLAJE

Maria is an intern under the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Micronesia Challenge under the guidance of Janice Castro, DCRM Director.



NATALIE MONTANO

Natalie is an intern at the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Geographic Information System (GIS) under the guidance of Rodney Camacho, GIS Specialist, and Kelsey McClellan, Coastal Fellow.



ELOISE LOPEZ

Eloise is an intern at the Division of Environmental Quality, Environmental Surveillance Laboratory under the guidance of Charito Bautista, Laboratory Manager.



WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP
Division of Coastal Resources Management
Tel.: (670) 664-8300 | Fax: (670) 664-8315



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
@GOINGCOASTAL_CNMI | @CNMICORAL



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 131Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Surge of dangerous COVID-19 disinformation threatens lives

We are entering a new surge of coronavirus cases—and of dangerous disinformation coming from the White House.

It originally was President Trump who ignored the threat, claiming in February that the virus would disappear “like a miracle.” Now it’s Vice President Mike Pence, the head of the administration’s Coronavirus Task Force, repeatedly insisting that the surge in cases is due to more testing.

Let’s be clear: The reason the nation, California and the Bay Area are experiencing significant increases in COVID-19 cases is not just because we’re testing more people. It’s also because a greater portion of people being tested have the virus.

Two weeks ago, an average of the prior seven days showed that 4.4% of the tests nationwide were coming back positive. Today, that positivity rate has shot up to 6.9%. Put another way, tests for the coronavirus are 57% more likely to be positive today than they were just two weeks ago.

We’re seeing the same trend in California, where the rate has increased from 4.4% to 5.9% over the past three weeks. And more people are being hospitalized. In California, there are more people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in hospitals than at any time in three months.

While the health of Americans and of Californians, in particular, is suffering as we reopen the economy, Trump and Pence continue downplaying the danger of the virus.

The vice president suggests that the surge is due only to increased testing. The president ignores health experts as he refuses to wear a mask. Their message: No problem here, let’s move on. Consequently, the virus spread continues—and at a faster rate.

It’s not just Trump and Pence who are disseminating misguided messages. Gov. Gavin Newsom continues to try to walk a political tightrope rather than acting decisively. After a strong start pushing residents to stay home if they didn’t need to go out, he then let the state rapidly reopen.

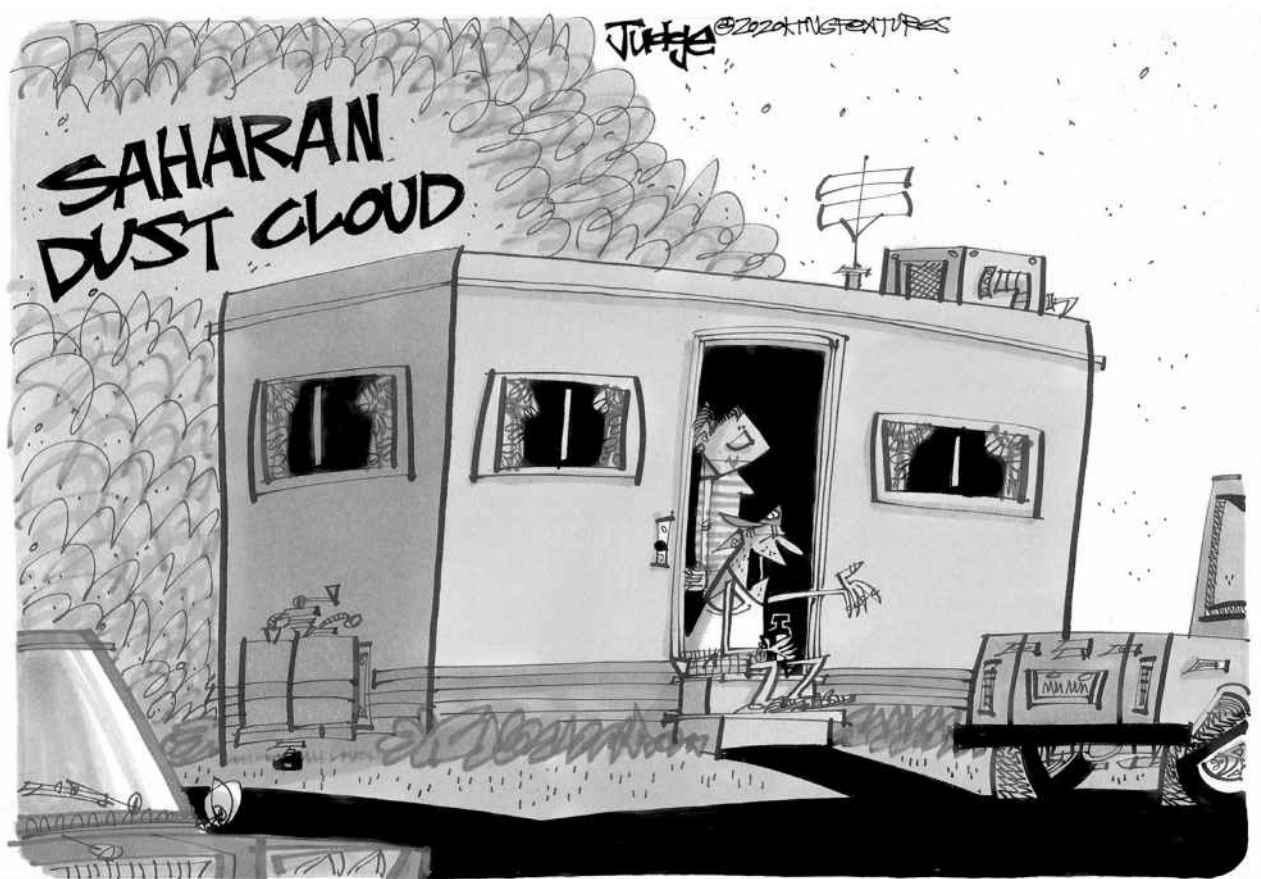
Then when cases—predictably—started quickly rising, he required wearing of masks in public, a step that was long overdue, and then over the weekend closed bars in some counties, a seemingly random action. Why bars? Why not construction sites or restaurants?

That would require analyzing the occupations of coronavirus cases. There’s no sign the state is doing such an analysis. Meanwhile, it balks at releasing data so others could.

Equally disconcerting is the message coming from Contra Costa. On Monday, health officials there reported coronavirus hospitalizations had increased 75% in the past two weeks. The number of daily cases had doubled. And the rate of positive test results had surged from 4% to 6%.

The county’s response? Delay further reopenings that had

See **SURGE** on Next Page



"THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC, THE ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT, POLICE MISCONDUCT, SOCIAL UNREST...HOW COULD THINGS GET ANY WORSE?"

Governors must protect the health workers who protect us

By **MICHELE HEISLER** and **RANIT MISHORI**
BLOOMBERG OPINION

The federal government’s response to COVID-19 has been haphazard, mismanaged and ultimately deadly. Yet the Trump administration is trumpeting the country’s “success” against the pandemic, with the vice president recently declaring that the U.S. response to COVID-19 is “cause for celebration.”

As doctors, we are not celebrating. With more than 125,000 people in the United States dead from COVID-19 and new cases climbing in 29 states, this is no time to let down our guard. And while the issue may have faded from the headlines, health workers in many parts of the country still lack personal protective equipment (PPE). Doctors’ and nurses’ pleas for masks and gloves may no longer be trending on social media, but the nationwide PPE crisis persists.

We have seen colleagues and friends forced to make impossible decisions—putting their own lives at risk to care for COVID-19 patients because they didn’t have the proper protective equipment. Some health workers have lost their jobs for speaking out about these shortages. The danger is real: At least 939 health workers have died from COVID-19 in the U.S., according to National Nurses United, and this is likely an undercount. These deaths were largely preventable.

Whether we’re still in the first wave of COVID-19 infections or preparing for the second, this much is true: We cannot abandon medical workers again by not providing the protective equipment they need. But to date, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has only issued voluntary worker-protection standards in health care settings. This leaves these standards unenforceable. Many complaints about potentially life-threatening safety issues have gone unaddressed.

With the Trump administration attempting to simply wish away the pandemic, it’s again up to the states to shape the next phase of our response to COVID-19. Crucially, this includes a responsibility to protect the health workers on the front lines in the weeks and months ahead.

This is why thousands of health professionals, including our organization, Physicians for Human Rights, are calling on governors in all 50 states to exercise their authority to protect front-line health workers during the pandemic. That means setting clear and enforceable workplace safety standards, and mandating the

provision of personal protective equipment. Governors should also enact clear standards for social distancing and hygiene measures, and enhance whistle-blower protections.

Recently, Virginia proposed the country’s first-ever pandemic emergency workplace safety standards—the clearest signal yet of OSHA’s neglect of its duty to protect health workers. The new state regulations are expected to include mandatory guidelines for PPE, sanitation and other workplace safety guidance, as well as protections from retaliation for health workers who speak out about safety concerns. This is an encouraging development, but whether it will save lives depends largely on the state’s enforcement practices.

Some states, including Maryland and New York, have OSHA-approved state plans that meet or exceed national standards. That means they can impose stricter safety rules in public health-care facilities, and in some cases private ones, too. In places where there is no state plan, governors and state legislatures must step in and institute emergency standards for worker safety and enforcement that go beyond OSHA’s voluntary measures. OSHA’s non-enforceable standards currently set a very low bar for health worker safety during a pandemic. The states aiming higher will save lives.

Given these gaps, it is crucial that Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who serve as chair and vice-chair of the National Governors Association, respectively, exercise their leadership to push for universal protections for health care workers across the nation. States can look to the California model, where there are standards set and generally enforced by the state for social distancing, face masks, hand sanitizing, washing and gloves. California also boasts regular workplace disinfection, increased ventilation and notification of infections.

Beyond passing new standards, it is essential that states enforce them. Once issued, relevant state agencies should be mandated to enforce standards under their own authority. States’ attorneys general should likewise be mandated to enforce these standards through the courts. States should also not overlook the critical importance of protecting health workers from discrimination or dismissal for speaking out in the face of dangerous conditions. Likewise, health workers should not face retribution for bringing additional personal protection to their jobs when employers are unable to provide adequate PPE.

See **GOVERNORS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Slavery is not all that America is about

The New York Times last year came up with a project to debase America, to say this country is about nothing but slavery, that the institution has determined everything we are, that it instructs us to this day on the maltreatment of Black people. The Revolutionary War was fought to keep it going and the pretenses of liberty and equality have been just that, pretenses. Slavery even fashioned a capital-

ism that maintains its evils and built our economy, we learn.

Black Americans are the real purveyors of the ideas of liberty and equality, not racist whites, we are also instructed in the so-called 1619 Project that started with a bunch of essays in the Times Sunday magazine. The name comes from the year the first slaves arrived, said to be our actual founding, which has since determined our real values. The essays are set to continue even though the project has already won a Pulitzer Prize, bringing to mind the occasion in 1932 when the Times won a Pulitzer for stories written about the Soviet Union that emphasized its supposed economic achievements without noting its famines.

The really scary thing is that the Times has so arranged things that a book of the project's contents will be taught in public high schools. That will help to further dislodge future generations from any understanding of how our values fought slavery instead of bowing to it, that many have understood that slavery and Jim Crow are our vilest faults without saying we have no virtues. Still, we already have colleges and universities refusing to teach Western civilization anymore, and you think of those who have warned that when a civilization no longer believes in itself, it is gone.

It is certainly important to recognize our faults but also to acknowledge, as Black American pundit Thomas Sowell has pointed out, that Black Americans were making far more progress on their own initiative before some liberal politicians in the 1960s entered in to do misconceived things for votes and guilt atonement. The 1964 Civil Rights Act was certainly needed, however.

Right now, this leftist thesis of slavery is much of what is behind a demand for dramatic change of just about everything, not least capitalism that has been one of the foremost blessings in human history.

All of this happens to be surrounding us at a time when Black Lives Matter is understandably protesting a tragic, evil

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



killing of a Black man by a policeman while also setting fire to police stations, a church, an apartment complex under construction and injuring police, ruining businesses, stealing all kinds of merchandise and toppling statues even when a statue toppled represented a 19th century abolitionist. Oh, this is nothing, say some of the intelligentsia even if others have not yet given up on thought, such as a number of this nation's top historians who have said the 1619 project is factually asunder.

One happens to be Gordon Wood who just maybe knows as much about the American Revolution as anyone and who says there is not a single quote anywhere to be found of a colonist saying the war could save slavery. The most enthusiasm for the war was in New England, which had already pretty much exiled slavery, he says, and the South had no reason to believe independence would secure the institution. Most of the Founders were against slavery, believing it would not last very long, but the invention of the cotton gin changed things. It is true that cotton sales contributed to the economy but absurd to say they built the economy.

Still, we can all maybe right now join hands on improved race relationships if we remember another point endorsed by such Black thinkers as Sowell, Shelby Steele, Jason Riley and the successful activist Bob Woodson, who is quoted as putting it this way: "Nothing is more lethal than to convey to people that they have an exemption from personal responsibility."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Official statement

The following is a statement from Go. Ralpg DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios on the passing of former representative Peter Michael Pangelinan Tenorio:

We are saddened to hear of the passing of former representative and Congressional Office district director Peter Michael Pangelinan Tenorio.

We express our heartfelt condolences to his wife Jackie, their children, his mother Sophie, and their entire family.

Mike was a very good man, who was humble, generous, and giving of his time to help many in our community. He was an accomplished businessman and leader within our community.

We thank him for his service as an elected leader and his work through our Congressional Office.

He was a devoted public servant, and he and his good work will surely be missed by the many people in our community who have come to know him.

Can you hear me now?

President Trump never ceases to amaze me. He tweets a clip showing a man yelling "White Power" not once but twice and then has the unmitigated gall to say, "I didn't hear anyone say 'White Power!'" I for one have had enough of Trump's blatant lies, misinformation and hateful rhetoric. On Nov. 3, as an independent voter, I will not be voting for President Trump or any of the candidates who support this corrupt individual. Can you hear me now, Mr. President?

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

GOVERNORS

From Page 12

As physicians, we know that the U.S. is still facing the biggest public health emergency in our lifetimes. The leadership of governors across the country has been vital in mitigating an even deadlier disaster. As we enter the fifth month of the coronavirus crisis, state-level leaders must rise to meet the moment. That means protecting the health workers who protect all of us.

Michele Heisler is medical director at Physicians for Human Rights and a professor of internal medicine and public health at the University of Michigan. Ranit Mishori is senior medical adviser at Physicians for Human Rights and a professor of family medicine at Georgetown University.

SURGE

From Page 12

been scheduled for Thursday. That's a no-brainer, but it's not nearly enough. After all, the surge in cases has occurred under the current rules.

Curbing the spread of COVID-19 requires clear, responsible messages and transparency from our leaders. We're not getting that from Washington or Sacramento.

DC is already a 'state'

In the latest of many cynical and highly political moves, the House of Representatives last week passed a measure that would transform the District of Columbia and make it the 51st state.

"DC," as it is often abbreviated by locals, is already a "state." It is a state of corruption, crime, and dysfunction. The only reason Democrats favor the nation's capital becoming a state is that it would gain two senators, who would almost certainly be Democrats and its "delegate," Eleanor Holmes Norton, could then vote in the House. Currently she can only participate in committee hearings with the permission of the chairperson.

The Founders specifically prohibited the District from becoming a state, but who listens to them anymore as rioters deface and pull down some of their statues and liberal judges rewrite the Constitution to conform to the spirit of the age?

As Time magazine has noted: "... the lack of statehood for the capital is enshrined in the Constitution. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the document reads, 'The Congress shall have Power To ... exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States.'"

It was James Madison, says Time, who explained the reasoning behind this provision in Federalist 43. The language is stilted, but updated it simply means that the national government is to have exclusive power over lands purchased from the states. These would be the same powers extended over the created federal district, later named the District of Columbia. The House legislation would change the name to the Douglass Commonwealth in honor of the abolitionist, Frederick Douglass.

"No Taxation Without Representation" is the slogan imprinted on the city's license plates. It references a cry that fueled the American Revolution when people protested paying taxes to the English king without having a say in the govern-

By **CAL THOMAS**

Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.



ment, or how the money was spent.

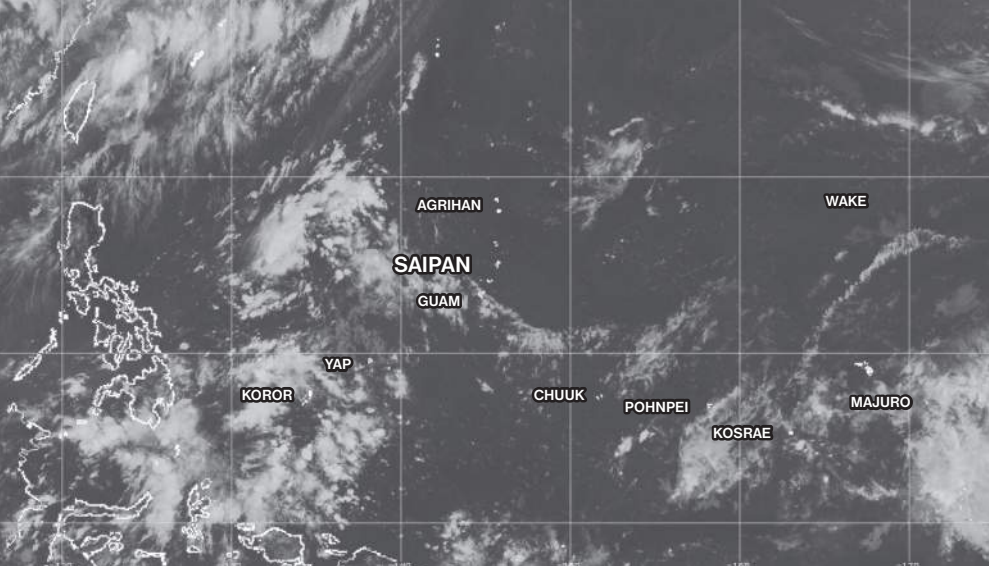
If people knew much history these days it might be a powerful argument, but as noted the Constitution forbids what House Democrats are trying to accomplish. The language and intent of the Founders could not be clearer.

Additionally, no one is forced to live in the District. Maryland and Virginia border the city, which was created "ten miles square" from land donated by both states for the specific purpose of establishing a federal capital with provisions for how it would be run. The city has Home Rule, meaning it can vote for mayor, city council and school board members, among other positions, which gives residents some control over how their city taxes are spent. Congress, however, can still override any local legislation it does not like as the Constitution provides.

Given the recent rioting and property damage in DC, it is even less likely the Senate will go along with the House measure to make the city a state and even if it did, President Trump would certainly veto it. The prospect of DC becoming the 51st state could be added to the president's and Republicans list of reasons why Democrats should not win the White House, or a Senate majority in the coming election, now just four months away.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:16 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies are seen over Tinian and Saipan with mostly cloudy skies over Rota and Guam. Gentle to moderate trade winds with only spotty showers prevail across the Marianas this morning. Buoys show seas between 3 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic
- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:41 AM	5:01 PM
Saturday	-	4:35 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	-	5:32 AM	7:00 PM
Monday	-	6:30 AM	7:55 PM
Tuesday	-	7:27 AM	8:44 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°	
Beijing	Thunderstorm	79° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 74°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 45°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°	
Osaka	Rain	79° / 72°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	75° / 66°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 68°	
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92° / 75°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:00 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.20	
12:28 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.17	
7:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

MAI Teppanyaki at Fiesta Resort reopens



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort Food & Beverage director Das Krishnan said MAI Teppanyaki chefs regularly perform "fire shows" to the delight of their customers.

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's teppanyaki restaurant reopened last month with a promotion giving 20% off to local residents.

Das Krishnan, Fiesta Resort Food & Beverage director, said MAI Teppanyaki reopened last June 25 with a special promo-

tion for CNMI residents.

"We do not charge service charge of 10% and provide CNMI residents 20% off on food," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Krishnan is also proud to say that MAI Teppanyaki is the first teppanyaki restaurant on island to reopen since the CNMI recorded its first case of COVID-19, which resulted in all dining places

Black businesses see increased sales amidst racial reckoning

BOSTON (AP)—When Mahdi Hashemian was looking for a bicycle for his 7-year-old daughter Zeynab last week, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, resident decided to skip his local cycle shops in favor of a Black-owned one a few miles away in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood.

At Spokehouse, a bike shop with "Black Lives Matter" painted in large bold letters outside, the pair picked out a simple, white-colored model and had training wheels and a white basket for its handlebars installed.

Hashemian, who is set to earn his doctorate from MIT, said he's been reminded in recent weeks of the outpouring of support he felt from the campus community when President Donald Trump imposed a ban on travelers from Muslim majority countries in 2017, including his native Iran.

"It seems small," he said of his bike purchase, "but a little show of support can mean a lot."

As the May killing of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis has fueled a worldwide outcry against racism and police brutality, many on social media are encouraging people to spend their money at Black-owned businesses. Lists of local retailers, artisans and manufacturers have been circulating on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter,

helping Black-owned businesses raise their profile at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has ravaged the economy.

According to Google, searches for "Black owned businesses near me" reached an all-time high last month in the U.S. Yelp has also made it easier for customers to search for Black-owned establishments on the restaurant review site, and Uber Eats says it'll waive delivery fees for purchases from Black-owned restaurants through the end of the year.

"It's great seeing people realize that where they shop can be another form of activism, that it's a way to put your money where your mouth is," said Randy Williams, founder of Talley & Twine, a Black-owned watch company in Portsmouth, Virginia. "You're helping Black businesses become self-sustaining, and that helps the whole ecosystem."

Sales at Talley & Twine these past few months are up more than 300% from the same period last year, partly because more people are shopping online during the pandemic, he said. But the company was also recently mentioned on a number of social media lists of Black-owned businesses, and its Juneteenth-themed watch sold out before the June 19 holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, Williams said.



MAI Teppanyaki's bestsellers are its \$95 Wagyu beef and seafood combination and its \$55 seafood set.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAI Teppanyaki is the first teppanyaki restaurant to reopen on Saipan after the semi-lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March.

shutting down.

"There are no teppanyaki outlets open on island at present except us at Mai Teppanyaki," he said. Fiesta Resort closed MAI Teppanyaki due to the coronavirus last March 24.

He also said that Fiesta Resort green-lit the opening of the outlet as soon as the government moved the islands' Vulnerability Level to "Code Blue."

"Easy to manage with the requirement from [Bureau of Environmental Health] with

50% seating capacity and limited staffing," said Krishnan.

Before the semi-lockdown, MAI Teppanyaki earned praises from tourists and locals alike not only for their food and presentation but also for the creativity of its teppan chefs.

"Our MAI Teppanyaki chefs have their own creativity like the 'fire shows' they regularly perform for customers. Our teppan chefs also have their way of treating our customers like they're someone very special and important. It's something we call

their own personal touch," said Krishnan.

As far as the food goes, MAI Teppanyaki's bestsellers are its \$95 Wagyu beef and seafood combination and its \$55 seafood set.

On safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Krishnan said they implemented a slew of protocols at MAI Teppanyaki to keep not only customers but also their staff protected.

"All of our staff went through COVID-19 testing and SERVSAFE precautions train-

ing before we reopened. We also take our staff's temperature before they're allowed to go on duty and are mandated to always wear face masks and gloves and wash their hands for at least 20 seconds."

For customers, staff are instructed to log down their names and contact numbers and take their temperature while keeping tabs on the table they're seated on.

Social distancing of 6 feet apart and two separate doors for entrance and exit are also in full effect at MAI Teppanyaki, Krishnan assured.

After being closed for more than three months, MAI Teppanyaki staff are ecstatic to welcome back customers.

"We are very excited to serve our customers again since we were closed since last March 24. Thank you to our loyal customers and we are so grateful to serve them again with all our heart," said Krishnan.

MAI Teppanyaki is open 6pm-9:30pm from Tuesdays to Saturdays with two seating schedules—one at 6pm and the next at 8pm. Reservations are needed. For more information and for reservations, call Fiesta Resort at (670)-234-6414.

Majesty Restaurant

keeps traditional Chinese flavors alive

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Established seven years ago, Majesty Restaurant along Beach Road in Garapan is painted with bright red, green, and gold colors and two Chinese foo dogs welcome customers at the entrance that immediately transports you to a traditional scene in China. If



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cantonese roasted Peking duck is one of Majesty Restaurant's specialties.

that doesn't catch your attention, wait until you try their dishes as you will find more delight in the smell, color, and exquisite flavor of every bite.

According to owner Alfred Ho, Majesty Restaurant serves Cantonese cuisine which is known for lightly cooked fresh vegetables, meat, and sweet sauces. "Majesty Restaurant serves dishes from the provinces of China, mostly Cantonese dishes... We use fresh and high-quality ingredients in every dish and the cleanliness and ambiance of the place makes it all even better," he said.

Cantonese cuisine is also known to have delicious dishes made by stir fry or steaming. "In fact, one of the most requested dishes by local residents is our flavorful dimsums. Our Cantonese chef makes ev-

ery piece worthwhile, sticking to traditional taste and ingredients," he added.

Majesty Restaurant is also popular among locals and tourists because of their roast pork and duck and scrumptious seafood and noodle dishes. Whether it is for a business meeting or a family occasion, there are private rooms available for special functions.

"We closed temporarily on March 19 due to COVID-19 concerns, but now we are back and open for dine-in and take-out services. We serve our regular menu and we highly recommend the Peking duck and the dimsums," Ho said.

"For efficient service, we also recommend to our customers to make a reservation or pre-order when they want to dine-in. We offer 20%



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Majesty Restaurant has been serving authentic Cantonese dishes since 2013.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

discount for take-away food and 10% for dine-in guests," he added.

Majesty Restaurant is open from Monday to Sunday, 11am-2pm, for lunch, and 6pm-9pm for dinner. For more information, call (670) 233-2088 (670) 287-0383 or visit their Facebook page: Majesty Chinese Restaurant.

Spacious and elegant interiors make Majesty Restaurant a go-to place for business meetings and family celebrations

Congress extends relief program for COVID-slammed businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Wednesday easily passed a temporary extension of a subsidy program for small businesses slammed by the coronavirus, speeding the measure to President Donald Trump.

Approval by voice vote without debate came after Democrats pushed the legislation through the GOP-controlled Senate late Tuesday as spikes in coronavirus cases in many states led to renewed shutdowns of bars and other businesses.

Trump was expected to sign the measure.

The legislation extends the June 30 deadline for applying for the program to Aug. 8. Lawmakers created the program in March and have modified it twice since, adding money on one occasion and more recently permitting more flexible use of the funding despite some grumbling among GOP conservatives.

About \$130 billion of \$660 billion approved for the program remains eligible for businesses to seek direct federal subsidies for payroll and other costs such as rent, though demand for the Pay-

check Protection Program has pretty much dried up in recent weeks.

Sponsors of the program, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio, R-Fla., want to re-purpose the money in a way that's more targeted for businesses suffering during the upswing in cases.

It was part of an almost \$3 trillion federal response to a menacing virus that has slammed the economy as consumers and workers were forced to stay at home through much of spring.

The subsidies come in the form of federal loans that can be forgiven if businesses follow rules such as utilizing 60% of the loan for payroll costs. The loans have been a lifeline to almost 5 million firms, but business owners are looking for more flexibility and aid that helps them survive over the long haul.

Congressional action came as lawmakers were set to exit Washington for more than two weeks. Upon their return, talks were expected to begin on a fifth coronavirus relief measure.

Robert Tenorio Torres

Attorney at Law
Plata Drive,
Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Merced M. Tomokane
for Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Civil Action No. 20-0140
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION OR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOSEPH D. ALDAN, Decedent.
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOSEPH D. ALDAN OR OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Merced M. Tomokane for Creditor Bank of Guam, of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letter of Administration of the Estate of Joseph D. Aldan, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Merced M. Tomokane, as Petitioner for Creditor Bank of Guam, is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

It is further ordered, to avoid any unnecessary delays:

(a) those who will be attending in-person in the courtroom, COVID-19 protective measures such as social distancing, use of mask and sanitizers, etc. are enforced.
(b) those who will be attending via video conference shall file a Request with a Proposed Order. If granted, the party(ies)/attorney(s) shall contact the Deputy Clerk Adeline Tereyama at (670) 235-4261 or via email at adeline.tereyama@nmijudiciary.com to test the video conference system in advance.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2020.

/s/
Judge Joseph Norita Camacho

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
RFP20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 6TH, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM
"CONSTRUCTION COST ANALYST"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Lawrence C. Boyer d.b.a. Macro Accounting Services

THE POSITION: Accountant

JOB DESCRIPTION: Preparation of CNMI and Federal Tax Returns for Individuals, Partnerships, and Corporations; Preparation of Financial Statements; Examination and Analysis of Accounting Records and Financial Statements; Providing advice on areas of financial matters; and Performs other related duties as may be assigned by the owner.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: With a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
EXPERIENCE: With at least 60 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must have knowledge and experience in accounting soft wares; Must be computer-literate; and Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills.
JOB SITE: Second Floor, Marianas Variety Building, Alaihai Ave., Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and/or application letter to:
LAWRENCE C. BOYER D.B.A. MACRO ACCOUNTING SERVICES
Office Address: Second Floor, Marianas Variety Building, Alaihai Ave., Garapan
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501232, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: laurence.boyer@gmail.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 285-9272; (670) 287-1162

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Merced M. Tomokane for
Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Civil Action No. 20-0180-CV
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION OR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOSEY JAY S. MARATITA, Decedent.
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOSEY JAY S. MARATITA OR OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Merced M. Tomokane for Bank of Guam, of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letter of Administration of the Estate of Josey Jay S. Maratita, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Merced M. Tomokane, as Petitioner for Creditor Bank of Guam, is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2020.

/s/
Judge Joseph Norita Camacho

Nation

Stonewall Jackson removed from Richmond's Monument Avenue

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Work crews wielding a giant crane, harnesses and power tools wrested an imposing statue of Gen. Stonewall Jackson from its concrete pedestal along Richmond, Virginia's famed Monument Avenue on Wednesday, just hours after the mayor ordered the removal of all Confederate statues from city land.

Mayor Levar Stoney's decree came weeks after Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam ordered the removal of the most prominent and imposing statue along the avenue: that of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which sits on state land. The removal of the Lee statue has been stalled pending the resolution of several lawsuits.

The Jackson statue is the latest of several dozen Confederate symbols to be removed from public land in the U.S. in the five weeks since the death of George Floyd at the hands

of police sparked a nationwide protest movement.

In most instances, state or local governments moved to take down monuments in response to impassioned demonstrators, but in a few cases—including several other Virginia Confederate statues—protesters toppled the figures themselves. Also this week, Mississippi retired the last state flag in the U.S. that included the Confederate battle emblem.

Confederate statues were erected decades after the Civil War, during the Jim Crow era, when states imposed new segregation laws, and during the "Lost Cause" movement, when historians and others tried to depict the South's rebellion as a fight to defend states' rights, not slavery. In Richmond, the first major monument—the Lee statue—was erected in 1890.

Work crews spent several



hours Wednesday carefully attaching a harness to the massive Stonewall Jackson statue and using power tools to detach it from its base. A crowd

Bentley University.

"The large-scale protests can impact both the behavior of the protesters and the behavior of the non-protesters," said Dave. The paper was released last week by the National Bureau of Economic Research, but has not been published by a peer-reviewed journal.

Drawing from data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, The Associated Press reviewed trends in daily reported cases in 22 U.S. cities with protests. It found post-protest increases in several cities—including Houston and Madison, Wisconsin—where experts say other factors were more likely the main drivers.

"People were trying to hold their ground but you could see the cops literally storm through people's beds while they were sleeping. And literally say 'If you don't get out, we will force you out or arrest you,'" he said.

One man dressed in black was peacefully led away in handcuffs and other demonstrators sat on the wet ground until their small group was handcuffed and detained.

Police also tore down fences that protesters had erected around their tents and used batons to poke inside bushes, apparently looking for people who might be hiding. One officer took down a sign saying "We are not leaving until our demands are met: 1. Defund SPD by 50% now. 2. Fund Black Communities. 3. Free all protesters."

AP
Work crews remove the statue of confederate general Stonewall Jackson, Wednesday, July 1, 2020, in Richmond, Va.

change. And now finally the change is coming about."

Flatbed trucks and other equipment were spotted Wednesday at several other monuments as well. The city has roughly a dozen Confederate statues on municipal land, including one of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. Mayor Stoney said it will take several days to remove them.

The mayor said he also is moving quickly because he is concerned that people could be hurt trying to take down the gigantic statues themselves. In Portsmouth last month, a man was seriously injured when protesters tried to pull down a Confederate statue.

"Failing to remove the statues now poses a severe, immediate and growing threat to public safety," he said, noting that hundreds of demonstrators have held protests in the city for 33 consecutive days.

Stoney said the removal of the statues is "long overdue"

Little evidence that protests spread coronavirus in US

NEW YORK (AP)—There is little evidence that the protests that erupted after George Floyd's death caused a significant increase in U.S. coronavirus infections, according to public health experts.

If the protests had driven an explosion in cases, experts say, the jumps would have started to become apparent within two weeks—and perhaps as early as five days. But that didn't happen in many cities with the largest protests, including New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Washington, D.C.

In what's considered the first systematic look at the question, a team of economists determined that only one of 13

cities involved in the earliest wave of protests after Memorial Day had an increase that would fit the pattern.

It was Phoenix, where experts say cases and hospitalizations surged after a decision by Gov. Doug Ducey to end Arizona's stay-at-home order on May 15 and eased restrictions on businesses. Arizona residents who were cooped up for six weeks flooded Phoenix-area bar districts, ignoring social distancing guidelines.

In many cities, the protests actually seemed to lead to a net increase in social distancing, as more people who did not protest decided to stay off the streets, said that study's lead author, Dhaval Dave of

Seattle police forcibly clear 'lawless' protest zone

SEATTLE (AP)—Wearing helmets and wielding batons and rifles, Seattle police turned out in force at dawn Wednesday in the city's "occupied" protest zone after the mayor ordered it cleared following two recent fatal shootings.

Officers stood shoulder-to-shoulder on several streets while others created a makeshift fence with their bicycles, using it to push dozens of protesters back away from the center of the "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone just east of downtown. The group had occupied several blocks around a park for about two weeks after police abandoned a precinct station following standoffs and clashes that were part of the nationwide unrest over the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

As residents in the neighborhood watched from balconies, police cleared out the protesters' tents from the park and made sure no one was left in the park's bathrooms.

More than three dozen people were arrested, charged with failure to disperse, obstruction, assault and unlawful weapon possession.

"Our job is to support peaceful demonstration but what has happened on these streets over the last two weeks is lawless and it's brutal and bottom line it is simply unacceptable," Police Chief Carmen Best said.

One protest organizer, Derek Allen Jones II, said some demonstrators attempted to stay but were surprised by the early intervention by officers who were "trampling everything I seen in sight, flipping tables."

AMENDMENT Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, July 2, 2020 | 5:00 PM

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0730:** Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5005:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5007:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-1492:** Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to occupy & operate its tattoo services. This use is classified as "Personal Services" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0720:** Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as "Residential Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 006 B 11 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communication

1. FY 2021 Budget
2. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
3. Department Organizational and Functional Chart

D. Old Business

1. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations

E. Executive (Closed) Session

F. New Business

1. Election of Officers
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

G. Miscellaneous

1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

H. Adjournment

Asia

HK media tycoon says city now 'dead'

HONG KONG (AP)—When Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai arrived in Hong Kong at age 12, the city felt like heaven to him, brimming with hope and freedom. He arrived poor, but over the years embarked on a rags-to-riches path from a garment factory worker to a wealthy businessman known for founding the popular Apple Daily newspaper and for being an outspoken pro-democracy activist.

"The hope I had (in Hong Kong) lasted for a long time, it made me who I am today," Lai

said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, hours after a new Hong Kong national security law imposed by mainland China came into effect.

"(When I first arrived), I could feel it, it was so palpable, that I almost thought a great future was waiting for me."

But that hope dimmed over the years, and with the enactment of the security law, Lai says the Hong Kong he once knew is dead.

"It's worse than the worst scenario imagined. Hong

Kong is totally subdued, totally under control," he said. "It's sad that Hong Kong is dead."

The security law is seen by many as Beijing's boldest move yet to erase the legal firewall between the semi-autonomous territory and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system.

Under the law, anyone suspected of taking part in subversive, secessionist or terrorist activities, as well as colluding with foreign forces to intervene in the city's affairs, could face a maximum punishment

of life imprisonment. In some cases, mainland China will assume jurisdiction and suspects could be sent there for trial.

Lai said he will continue fighting for democracy, but it will now have to be in a "very different way."

"We will have to see how many of us are left in the fighting camp," he said, adding that many will be frightened away by the new law.

"We will have to stand up and be the backbone of the movement's integrity, and the integrity of Hong Kong's jus-

tice," he said.

Lai declined to elaborate on how the pro-democracy movement will continue, saying that discussions are needed on how to move forward. He remained hopeful that Hong Kong will one day have democracy.

"Dictatorship of such extremes cannot last in today's world, it's impossible," he said. "We have to persist, time is on our side. We are on the right side of history."

Lai also condemned the security legislation for violating the rule of law in Hong Kong, still based on British common law.

"The details (of the law) are ... very draconian but also very vague," he said. "They're saying the security law is going to be used for people who make trouble who are the tiny minority, and that common

law will still be useful for commercial businesses and all that. But the two hands can switch at any time."

The city will lose its status as an international financial hub because trust cannot be built when there is no rule of law, and businesses will have no protection, he said.

In the future, Hong Kongers will be very cautious about what they say on the phone and on social media, and will be careful whom they speak to, afraid that someone might turn them in, he said.

"This is going to be a very different society. I don't think Hong Kong people, who are used to freedom and rule of law, will be able to adjust," he said. "Many will leave."

But he emphasized that he would stay, even if one day his family has to leave.



Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai gesture next to a copy of Apple Daily's July 1 edition during an interview Hong Kong Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

Outbreak grows in Australia's 2nd-largest city

A coronavirus outbreak in Australia's second-largest city continued to grow Thursday and the Northern Territory detected its first case in three months.

Northern Territory Health Minister Natasha Fyles said the man came home to Darwin on Monday from Melbourne before a one-month lockdown was imposed on 36 of its suburbs Wednesday night.

Before the man tested positive Wednesday, the Northern Territory had last detected a case on April 6.

Fyles said the man had spent two weeks in hotel quarantine in Melbourne on returning from overseas then spent "a couple of days" with family in one of the city's suburbs identified as a coronavirus hot spot.

Fyles did not say whether the man was likely infected in Melbourne or overseas.

Victorian state Chief Health Minister Brett Sutton said 77 cases had been detected in the past 24 hours in Melbourne, mostly in the locked-down suburbs.

A retired judge is holding an inquiry into breaches of infection control in Melbourne hotel quarantine, which has been blamed for some of the spread in the city while much of Australia is virus-free.

The Herald Sun newspaper reported allegations that security firms charged the state government for hotel guards that were not provided, guards had sex with quarantined hotels guests and allowed families to go between rooms to play cards.

In other developments around the Asia-Pacific region:

■ South Korea reported 54 new cases as the virus con-

tinues to spread beyond the capital area and reach cities like Gwangju, which has shut schools and tightened social restrictions after dozens were found infected this week. Health Minister Park Neung-hoo during a virus meeting expressed alarm over the rise of infections in Gwangju, which had one of the smallest case-loads among major South Korean cities before this week. Park urged the city's residents to refrain from unnecessary gatherings, maintain distance from others and wear masks.

■ China reported three new cases of coronavirus, including just one case of local transmission in the capital Beijing, appearing to put the country where the virus was first detected late last year on course to eradicating it domestically, at least temporarily. The other

two cases were brought from outside the country, according to the National Health Commission. China credits strict quarantine, social distancing and case tracing policies with reducing its cases. Masks are required for entry into many buildings, sometimes along with proof on a mobile phone app that the person is healthy.

■ New Zealand's health minister resigned following a series of personal blunders during the coronavirus pandemic. David Clark had earlier described himself as an "idiot" for breaking the nation's lockdown measures and then last week appeared to blame a beloved health official for border lapses, generating an angry response from the public. Clark said he was becoming a distraction from the country's virus response.

India, China hold inconclusive talks on ending army face-off

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian and Chinese military commanders met for a third time in an attempt to ease a monthlong face-off over disputed territory and emphasized the need for a phased deescalation of tensions, a senior Indian army official said Wednesday.

The official said more meetings are expected, both among military officials and diplomats, to reach a mutually agreeable solution and ensure peace along their disputed "Line of Actual Control."

The latest meeting took place on the Indian side of the disputed border on Tuesday, he said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in Beijing that China welcomed the progress made by the military commanders in devising effective measures by frontline troops to disengage and deescalate the situation.

"We hope the Indian side will work with the Chinese side toward the same goal, keep up close communication through military and diplomatic channels, and ease the situation and reduce the temperature along the border," according to the Chinese foreign ministry website.

India's army chief, Gen. M.M. Naravane, visited the area in Ladakh last week to

review his troops' preparedness after hand-to-hand combat between Indian and Chinese soldiers on June 15 left 20 Indians dead. Indian officials say there were casualties on the Chinese side as well, but there has been no confirmation by Beijing.

Indian officials say the current standoff began in early May when large contingents of Chinese soldiers entered deep inside Indian-controlled territory at three places in Ladakh, erecting tents.

They say the soldiers ignored repeated verbal warnings, triggering a yelling match, stone throwing and even fistfights in at least one place along Pangong Lake, the site of several such confrontations in the past.

The Galwan Valley, where the clash occurred, is part of a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) "Line of Actual Control"—the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Infuriated by the border tensions, Indian protesters have been calling for a boycott of Chinese goods since the June 15 confrontation. On Monday, the government said it has banned 59 Chinese-owned apps, including TikTok, which is operated by Chinese internet firm ByteDance. It cited privacy concerns that it said pose a threat to India's sovereignty and security.

World

Russian voters agree to let Putin seek 2 more terms

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian voters approved changes to the constitution that will allow President Vladimir Putin to potentially hold power until 2036, but the weeklong plebiscite that concluded Wednesday was tarnished by widespread reports of pressure on voters and other irregularities.

With three-fourths of all precincts counted, 77.6% voted for the constitutional amendments, according to election officials.

For the first time in Russia, polls were kept open for a week to bolster turnout without increasing crowds casting ballots amid the coronavirus pandemic—a provision that Kremlin critics denounced as an extra tool to manipulate the outcome.

A massive propaganda campaign and the opposition's failure to mount a coordinated challenge helped Putin get the result he wanted, but the plebiscite could end up eroding his position because of the unconventional methods used to boost participation and the dubious legal basis for the balloting.

The amendments that would allow Putin to run for two more six-year terms, in 2024 and 2030, are part of a package of constitutional changes that also outlaw same-sex marriage, mention "a belief in God as a core value" and emphasize the



AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin shows his passport to a member of an election commission as he arrives to take part in voting at a polling station in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

primacy of Russian law over international norms.

Voters could not cast ballots on the individual amendments, only on the entire group.

Nationwide turnout was reported at 65% of the electorate.

Kremlin critics and independent election observers questioned the turnout figures.

"We look at neighboring regions, and anomalies are

obvious—there are regions where the turnout is artificially (boosted), there are regions where it is more or less real," Grigory Melkonyants, co-chair of the independent election monitoring group Golos, told The Associated Press.

Putin voted at a Moscow polling station, dutifully showing his passport to the election worker. His face was

uncovered, unlike most of the other voters who were offered free masks at the entrance.

The vote completes a convoluted saga that began in January, when Putin first proposed constitutional changes including broadening the powers of parliament and redistributing authority among the branches of government. Those proposals stoked speculation he might seek to become parliamentary speaker or chairman of the State Council when his presidential term ends in 2024.

His intentions became clear only hours before a vote in parliament, when legislator Valentina

Tereshkova, a Soviet-era cosmonaut who was the first woman in space in 1963, proposed letting him run two more times. The proposed changes were quickly passed by the Kremlin-controlled legislature.

The 67-year-old Putin, who has been in power for more than two decades—longer than any other Kremlin leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin—said he would decide later whether to run again. He argued that resetting the term count was necessary to keep his lieutenants focused on their work instead of "darting their eyes in search for pos-

sible successors."

Analyst Gleb Pavlovsky, a former Kremlin political consultant, said Putin's push to hold the vote despite the fact that Russia has thousands of new coronavirus infections each day reflected his potential vulnerabilities.

"Putin lacks confidence in his inner circle and he's worried about the future," Pavlovsky said. "He wants an irrefutable proof of public support."

Even though the parliament's approval was enough to make it law, the 67-year-old Russian president put his constitutional plan to voters to showcase his broad support and add a democratic veneer to the changes. But then the coronavirus pandemic engulfed Russia, forcing him to postpone the April 22 plebiscite.

The delay made Putin's campaign blitz lose momentum and left his constitutional reform plan hanging as the damage from the virus mounted and public discontent grew. Plummeting incomes and rising unemployment during the outbreak have dented his approval ratings, which sank to 59%, the lowest level since he came to power, according to the Levada Center, Russia's top independent pollster.

UK extends immigration rights for 3M eligible Hong Kongers

LONDON (AP)—Britain announced Wednesday that it was extending residency rights for up to 3 million Hong Kongers eligible for the British National Overseas passport, stressing that it would uphold its historic duty to the former British colony after Beijing imposed a sweeping new national security law in the city.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told lawmakers that amid widespread concerns about Beijing's tightening grip on Hong Kong, the U.K. was changing its immigration rules to give people who are connected to Britain by virtue of the city's status as a former British colony a special route to citizenship.

Eligible individuals from Hong Kong currently can come to the U.K. for six months without a visa. Under the new policy, they will have the right to live and work in the country for five years. After that, they will be allowed to apply for settled status and then again for citizenship.

Hong Kongers who were born after the end of British

rule in 1997 are not eligible, meaning that in effect, many of the city's young student activists who are most at risk of arrest under the new law cannot take advantage of the British offer.

The announcement came hours after China imposed a sweeping new national security law in Hong Kong that Britain calls a flagrant breach of China's international obligations and a "clear and serious violation" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

That treaty paved the way for Hong Kong's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997, and was supposed to guarantee at least 50 years of Western-style rule of law and civil liberties for the city under a "One Country, Two Systems" principle until 2047.

Chinese officials have in the past referred to the treaty as a "historical document," a claim that Britain strongly rejects.

"The prime minister and the government are crystal clear that the United Kingdom will keep its word," Raab said. "We will live up to our responsibilities to the

people of Hong Kong."

The U.K. introduced a special, limited type of British nationality in the 1980s for people who were a "British dependent territories citizen by connection with Hong Kong." The passports did not confer nationality or the automatic right to live and work in Britain, but entitled holders to consular assistance from U.K. diplomatic posts.

Britain's government estimates there are about 350,000 current holders of the British National Overseas passports, with a total of around 2.9 million people eligible for it. It says the extended residency rules will apply to all of them and their immediate dependents.

No exact date was given for the new rule's implementation, and Raab said further details will be announced later.

The Foreign Office on Wednesday summoned Liu Xiaoming, the Chinese ambassador, to a meeting with permanent secretary Simon McDonald, who made clear Britain's concern about the security law.

Peruvians fill streets as lockdown ends despite infections

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Block-long lines formed at bus stops, food markets and shopping centers in Peru's capital Wednesday as people left their homes en masse to go to work or shop as a 106-day coronavirus lockdown ended in many parts of the country.

For the first time in months, food vendors offered breakfasts for 50 cents from street carts covered in clear plastic in Lima's historic center. Vendors hawked face shields and disinfectants outside crowded public markets. City workers cleaned statues with jets of water.

"God always accompanies me," said 73-year-old newspaper deliverer Segundina Lolo when asked if she feared the virus with infection rates in the country still high and scientists warning against ending three months of strict stay-at-home orders too soon.

Peru has been hit hard by the coronavirus and is still

reporting 400 new confirmed cases a day. Until recently it had been following international advice on dealing with the pandemic but the measures didn't stop one of the world's worst outbreaks.

The Andean country is also facing one of the worst economic forecasts, with the World Bank projecting a 12% drop in GDP in 2020. The 106-day lockdown devastated Peru's economy, causing thousands of businesses to go under and unemployment to soar. Many of the jobless and poor turned to selling goods in the street to survive despite the stay-at-home orders. An estimated 70% of Peru's work force is employed in the informal economy.

President Martin Vizcarra said the goal of easing the lockdown is to "reactivate the economy" and generate jobs. Shopping centers reopened a week ago.

Vizcarra said if the virus re-

turns in force "the most severe measure would be to resume quarantine, but it would be the last option."

Lockdown measures have been lifted in Lima and other parts of the country where authorities say the rate of virus transmission is decreasing. But tough measures will remain in place in seven regions in central Peru where infections are on the rise.

Health Minister Víctor Zamora told the newspaper La República the lockdown that began March 16 saved 145,000 lives and prevented more than a million hospitalizations.

"It would have been a real massacre without quarantine," Zamora said.

With more than 285,000 confirmed infections, Peru has the seventh highest case count in the world. It has reported 9,677 deaths from COVID-19, the disease that can be caused by the coronavirus.

Off The Wall

Mississippi mayor: ANTIFA not coming, COVID-19 not a hoax

TUPELO, Miss. (AP)—In the Mississippi city where Elvis Presley was born, the mayor announced last week that masks would be required in public buildings and businesses starting Monday because of the COVID-19 pandemic—and he used the opportunity to debunk an array of rumors.

“Please listen to our health care professionals regarding covid-19. My job as mayor is to do my best to keep our community safe, not make easy or politically popular decisions,” Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton wrote on Facebook.

He added: “ANTIFA is not coming to Tupelo, Elvis statues are not being removed, you are not the target of some type of global conspiracy, it is im-

possible to erase history and no one has attempted to do so, covid is not a hoax, you shouldn’t believe and share posts that are obviously false or used as political propaganda, and there is nothing ‘liberal’ about any of the actions that have been taken by our administration regarding these matters.”

Shelton, a Democrat who publicly supports presidential nominee Joe Biden, told The Associated Press in a brief phone interview Monday that he was addressing “specific allegations I have received either by phone, email or social media.”

He said people seemed, by and large, to be following the mask requirement, though City Hall was getting complaints about businesses not requiring

employees to wear masks.

Responses to his Facebook message on Friday and a follow-up on Monday ranged from praise to: “Your days are numbered.”

The reference to erasing history is because Shelton has pushed for years to remove the Confederate battle emblem from Mississippi’s state flag—something the state Legislature voted on Sunday to do.

Shelton said he signed the mask order at the request of officials at North Mississippi Medical Center, which he described as Mississippi’s largest rural hospital, and the Tupelo Economic Recovery Committee—about 40 business and civic leaders appointed to help Tupelo during the pandemic.

Sausage, onion and iguana: Dead reptile found in pizza joint

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—File it under pizza toppings only offered in Florida. State inspectors found an 80-pound (36-kilogram) iguana stashed in the freezer at a local pizza joint.

Pizza Mambo in West Palm Beach was forced to close for a day last week following the inspection by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The restaurant could not be

reached for comment, but an employee told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that the reptile was given as a personal gift to the owner. It was stored in a separate freezer away from the restaurant’s food and was immediately trashed after they were informed it was a violation.

Non-native iguanas are multiplying so rapidly in South Florida that a state wildlife agency has been encouraging people to kill them.

Iguanas aren’t dangerous or aggressive to humans, but they damage seawalls, sidewalks, landscape foliage and can dig lengthy tunnels. The males can grow to at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) long and weigh nearly 20 pounds (9 kilograms) and female iguanas can lay nearly 80 eggs a year.

The reptile is considered a delicacy by some. One company even makes iguana sausages and burgers.

Wisconsin family saves bear swimming with head stuck in bin

BLOOMER, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin family helped save a young bear that was struggling to breathe while swimming in a lake with its head caught in a plastic food container.

Tricia and Brian Hurt and their son, Brady, were fishing Saturday on Marsh Miller Lake in western Wisconsin’s Chippewa County when they came across what they first thought was a swimming dog. They soon realized, though, that it was a young bear with a clear plastic cheese ball container stuck on its head.

Their first attempt to pull

the tub off the bear’s head failed, but another try was successful. They captured the rescue on video.

“That was the thing I remember most, is that bear panting heavily, trying to get air. Can you imagine having that down in the water, it sealed it off so it couldn’t get fresh air into that jug?” said Brian Hurt.

Tricia Hurt said if they had been two minutes sooner or later, they likely wouldn’t have come across the bear.

“I should have bought a lottery ticket,” Brian Hurt said.

“I probably would have better chances at winning the lottery ticket than stumbling across that poor bear.”

The Hurts then went to a nearby resort, where some people had watched the rescue and told them the bear had been that way for at least a few days. Locals had been trying to figure out how get the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to help it.

Brian Hurt estimated the bear was a year old and likely still with its mother. They watched it all the way until it got to shore.

Science & Technology

Phone tracking of virus cases

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel’s parliament approved a law Wednesday granting the country’s internal security agency limited authority to use phone surveillance to track coronavirus cases as the country struggles to contain a second outbreak.

The Israeli government had authorized the Shin Bet to use the technology in March during the peak of the country’s coronavirus outbreak, despite public outcry over privacy concerns. But the country’s Supreme Court ordered the surveillance halted until the security agency’s permission was granted by law.

The Knesset, Israel’s parliament, voted 51-38 in favor of granting the Shin Bet power to use phone surveillance to retrace the steps

of people infected with COVID-19 and identify others who came in contact with them in the previous two weeks. Those determined to have been in close proximity with an infected person will be ordered to self-quarantine for two weeks from the date of contact.

The law grants the Shin Bet permission to track cell phones for a three-week period on a case-by-case basis and only in instances in which other epidemiological tracking methods are insufficient in determining contact between a patient and other potentially infected persons.

But the law does grant the prime minister authority to give the Shin Bet additional powers if circumstances require. A ministerial team will

evaluate the need of the surveillance, while taking into consideration the impact on individuals’ right to privacy.

Israel has seen a spike in confirmed coronavirus cases in recent weeks since the government began easing restrictions on movement in May. New daily cases of the novel coronavirus have exceeded 600 in the past week, with the total number of confirmed cases exceeding 26,000. At least 321 Israelis have died of the disease since the beginning of the pandemic in March, according to the Israeli Health Ministry.

Earlier this month, the head of the Shin Bet reportedly told Israeli Cabinet ministers that he opposed the continued use of his agency’s technology to track coronavirus cases.

TECH Q&A: Windows 10 expired free upgrade offer still works

Q: I converted my Windows 7 PC to Windows 10 in 2016, when Microsoft was offering the upgrade for free. But I didn’t like Windows 10, so I chose to undo the upgrade. Now that Windows 7 no longer gets security updates, I want to install Windows 10 again. An IT guy told me I might still be able to get it for free, even though the free upgrade offer has expired. Can I?

A: Yes, you can still get the free upgrade to Windows 10, even though the Microsoft offer expired in 2017. The download and installation process remains available for all Windows 7 or 8.1 PCs that can handle Windows 10 (see installation directions at tinyurl.com/yxycvnx).

This unpublicized giveaway is unusual for Microsoft, and comes at a time when there are still plenty of PCs that need to be upgraded (see tinyurl.com/y94nudu). About 25% of personal computers still use Windows 7 (even though it no longer gets security updates) and about 3% use Windows 8.1 (which gets security updates until January 2023).

So why has this freebie continued? I suspect that Microsoft is more interested in getting rid of older, less-secure versions of Windows than in making a few extra bucks selling Windows 10 upgrades. Windows 7 PCs, for example, appear to be a

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



hacking disaster waiting to happen.

So, here’s how to upgrade to Windows 10 for free:

■ Download Windows 10 via Microsoft’s Media Creation Tool, which creates an installation program on a DVD disk or flash drive (see tinyurl.com/hgtcedm and click “download tool now.”)

■ Get your Windows 7 or 8.1 PC ready for the upgrade. Download the newest available software drivers for your PC. Disconnect any external devices from the PC, including disk drives, flash drives and printers. Uninstall your antivirus software (you should reinstall it once Windows 10 is installed.)

■ Install Windows 10. When you are asked what you want to keep on the PC, be sure to choose “keep personal files and apps.” If you choose any other option, Windows 10 may not install.

■ Activate Windows 10. The upgrade will automatically convert your Windows 7 or 8.1 digital license to a Windows 10 license. To activate the Windows 10 license, go to Settings and choose “update & security.”

Then click “activation.”

Gmail issues

Andrea Nikolai of Lakeland, Fla., says she can’t receive e-mails in her Gmail account.

A: You have probably exceeded the 15-gigabyte storage limit for a Google account, which means you need to delete something from Gmail (e-mail and attachments, some of which can be large files), Google Photos (photos only, typically large files) and Google Drive (stores any kind of data.) Note that only Google Photos files can be compressed to take up less space; convert them from original quality to high quality (see tinyurl.com/yxkmmvlv).

Anita Winkley of Winter Haven, Fla., said she’s losing e-mails and their attached photos from Gmail, and wonders if e-mail filtering is set up incorrectly.

A: Gmail’s filters can be set up to block e-mail based on the sender, subject line, wording, size or attachments—or a combination of those things. If the filters are deleting e-mail you want to keep, you should erase all e-mail filters and start over (see tinyurl.com/n3ujj7f).



CRIME SOLVER

In this May 9, 2020, photo provided by Catherine Brewer, is a safe that Knox Brewer pulled out of Whitney Lake in South Carolina. The 6-year-old was using a magnet attached to a string to fish for metal in the water when he reeled in a lockbox that police said was stolen from a woman who lived nearby eight years ago. AP

Life & Style

Australian court upholds Geoffrey Rush's defamation payout

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An Australian court on Thursday rejected a newspaper publisher's appeal against Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush's \$2.9 million Australian dollars (\$2 million) payout for defamation.

Three Federal Court judges ruled that articles published by Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper in 2017 conveyed the imputation that Rush was a pervert and that the trial judge had correctly included the actor's loss of earnings in calculating damages.

The Australian actor, who turns 69 on July 6, did not attend the Sydney court to hear the verdict.

News Corp.-owned Nationwide News appealed trial judge Michael Wigney's ruling last year that Rush was de-

famed by newspaper reports saying he had been accused of inappropriate behavior by actor Eryn Jean Norvill. She played the daughter of Rush's starring character in a Sydney theater production of "King Lear" in 2015 and 2016.

The publisher also appealed against the amount of Rush's payout, including almost AU\$2 million for past and future economic loss, for two articles published in the newspaper and a billboard poster that Wigney found portrayed him untruthfully as a pervert and a sexual predator.

David English, the newspaper's editor, said he was disappointed by the appeals court ruling that highlighted the need for Australia to change its defamation laws.

"The Rush case exposes the

inadequacies of Australia's defamation laws and heightens the need for urgent legislative reform to enable public debate and to encourage women to come forward with their concerns," English said in a statement.

"We will continue to report on the issues such as these which are of great concern to the Australian public," he added.

Rush's lawyer did not imme-

diately respond to a request for comment.

The publisher's lawyer Tom Blackburn told the two-day appeal hearing that the trial judge "cobbled together" speculation and inference to find Rush was unable to work because of his state of mind following the publications and had fewer job



Rush

offers since then.

The actor's lawyer Bret Walker replied that Rush testified about the devastating effects the publications had on his mental state while other evidence heard during the trial supported conclusions that he was unable to work and had fewer job offers.

Rush received the best actor

Oscar in 1996 for his portrayal of pianist David Helfgott in "Shine" and was nominated for roles in "Shakespeare In Love," "Quills" and "The King's Speech." He is also famed for his portrayal of Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

He received Australia's highest civilian honor in 2014, the Companion of the Order of Australia, for service to the arts.

Trump says he looks like Lone Ranger in a mask and likes it

WASHINGTON

(AP)—After long resisting wearing a mask in public, President Donald Trump said Wednesday he thinks it makes him look like the Lone Ranger—and he likes it.



Trump

"I'm all for masks. I think masks are good," Trump told Fox Business in an interview. "People have seen me wearing one."

Trump's comments came a day after Republican lawmakers suggested that he wear a mask in public to set a good example for Americans.

"If I were in a tight situation with people, I would absolutely," Trump said in the interview.

Trump has long resisted being photographed in a mask. In early April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures were difficult to maintain.

Trump immediately undercut the CDC guidance by flatly stating that he wouldn't be following it, suggesting it would be unseemly for the commander in chief to wear a mask as he meets with heads of state.

On Wednesday, he sounded a different tone, saying, "I had a mask on. I sort of liked the way I looked. OK. I thought it was OK. It was a dark black mask, and I thought it looked OK."

"It looked like the Lone Ranger," he continued, a reference to the fictional law-

and-order character from the American Old West who wore a black eye mask. "I have no problem with that, and if people feel good about it, they should do it."

In recent days, many Republicans and members of the White House coronavirus task force have been more outspoken in advocating for Americans to wear face masks in public settings as infections have surged in huge swaths of the South and West.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, said last week that he would pursue a federal mask mandate, if elected. In the interview, Trump suggested a federal mandate was unnecessary and continued to frame mask wearing as a matter of choice.

Even so, Trump criticized Biden for wearing a mask while he is some distance away from his audience and for speaking through the covering at times.

"When there's nobody around, I don't see any reason to be wearing it," Trump said in a separate interview Wednesday on "America This Week."

About the virus, Trump continued to characterize it as a nuisance that he hopes will just go away.

"I think we are going to be very good with the coronavirus. I think that, at some point, that's going to sort of just disappear, I hope," Trump said on Fox Business.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Maria Theresa Sanchez Sablan

Lovingly Known As Chechang
Was called to join our heavenly Creator on April 07, 2020

In her new life she now joins her loved ones who have gone before her:

Mother: †Concepcion Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero Sanchez (Chong Apa)

Father: †Juan Aguon Sanchez (Juan Catalino)

Parents In-Law: †Carmen Ada Manglona and †Vicente Atalig Sablan

Her peaceful spirit and loving memories will live forever in the hearts of her:

Husband: Bernard Manglona Sablan

Daughter: Jacqueline Sablan Barzak and Shawn Barzak

Grandchildren: Gavin Mathew, Ciara Nadia, Hannah Catherine

Siblings: Jose Dlg. Sanchez and Bernardita Pinaula Sanchez and family
 Fernando Dlg. Sanchez and family
 Bitilia Dolores Dlg. Sanchez and Efren N. Tabural
 Jesus Dlg. Sanchez and Ramona Camacho Sanchez and family
 Zita Dlg. Sanchez and family

Sisters and Brothers In-Law:
 † Angelina S. Reyes and Jerry Reyes and family
 † Jose M. Sablan and family
 Juan M. Sablan and Barbara T. Sablan and family
 Henry M. Sablan and Lirong F. Sablan and family
 Crispin M. Sablan and † Lucinda R. Sablan and family
 † Vicente M. Sablan and Barbara Dlg. Sablan and family
 † Martin M. Sablan and Fermina A. Sablan and family
 Liana M. S. Hofschneider and Richard U. Hofschneider and Family
 Diego M. Sablan and Elaine SN. Sablan and family

She will always be loved and remembered by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and their spouses, Family, Godchildren, and friends. May she rest in love, joy, and peace.

On Saturday, July 11, 2020 her remains will leave the Borja Funeral Home at 8:45 a.m. and will be escorted to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for responso, rosary, and public viewing.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Wearing of mask or facial covering s required for everyone at the Borja Funeral home and at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.
Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow

BERNARD MANGLONA SABLAN
 Jacqueline, Shawn, Gavin Mathew, Ciara Nadia, Hannah Catherine Barzak.
CHILDREN OF THE LATE CONCEPCION DELOS REYES DELON GUERRERO AND JUAN AGUON SANCHEZ AND FAMILIES.

Fox News fires Ed Henry after sexual misconduct allegation

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News on Wednesday fired daytime news anchor Ed Henry after an investigation of sexual misconduct in the workplace.

The network said it had received a complaint last Thursday from an attorney about the

misconduct. An outside investigator was hired and, based on the results of that probe, Fox fired Henry.

Fox offered no details of the complaint that resulted in Henry's firing, only to say that it happened "years ago."

A lawyer for Henry, Catherine Foti, said he denied the allegations "and is confident that he will be vindicated after a full hearing in an appropriate forum."

Henry, who co-anchored "America's Newsroom" be-

tween the hours of 9 a.m. and noon on weekdays, had slowly rehabilitated his career on Fox following a four-month leave of absence that ended in 2016. That followed published reports of Henry's extramarital affair with a Las Vegas cock-

tail waitress.

Meanwhile, HarperCollins said Wednesday that it would no longer publish a book by Henry that had been scheduled for September.

Titled "Saving Colleen: A Memoir of the Unbreakable Bond Between a Brother and Sister," it was about Henry donating part of his liver to his sister.

The alleged victim is represented by noted sexual harassment attorney Douglas Wigdor. He also would not provide any details of the case.

Henry's former co-anchor, Sandra Smith, announced the firing on the air. Fox said she'll continue in her role with rotating co-anchors until a full-time replacement is hired.

Henry, a former White House correspondent for Fox,



Henry

was only recently elevated to the role on "America's Newsroom." He got the job after Bill Hemmer moved to Shepard Smith's afternoon time slot.

In a memo to staff, Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott and President Jay Wallace reminded employees of Fox's 2017 overhaul of its human resources operation and the avenues they can follow with a sexual harassment complaint.

Fox's late former chairman, Roger Ailes, was fired in 2016 following harassment allegations made by former anchor Gretchen Carlson. Prime-time anchor Bill O'Reilly lost his job a year later following the revelations of settlements reached with women who had complaints about his behavior.

Museum or mosque?

Turkey debates iconic Hagia Sophia's status



People visit the Byzantine-era Hagia Sophia, one of Istanbul's main tourist attractions in the historic Sultanahmet district of Istanbul on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

ISTANBUL (AP)—In its more than 1,400-year existence, the majestic domed structure of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul has served as the Byzantine Empire's main cathedral, a mosque under the Ottoman Empire and a museum under modern Turkey, attracting millions of tourists each year.

The 6th-century building is now at the center of a heated debate between nationalist, conservative and religious groups who are pressing for it to be reconverted back into a mosque and those who believe the UNESCO World Heritage site should remain a museum, underscoring Istanbul's status as a bridge between continents and cultures.

On Thursday, Turkey's Council of State, the country's highest administrative court, begins reviewing a request by a group devoted to reverting Hagia Sophia into a mosque. They are pressing to annul a 1934 decision by the Council of Ministers, led by secular Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, that turned the historic structure into a museum. A decision could come later Thursday or within two weeks, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who leads an Islamic-oriented party, has previously spoken about possibly changing Hagia Sophia's status to a mosque but has said his government would await the Council of State's decision.

Analysts believe that Erdoğan—a populist, polarizing leader who in nearly two decades in office has frequently blamed Turkey's secular elites for the country's problems—is using the Hagia Sophia debate to consolidate his conservative base and to distract attention from Turkey's substantial economic woes.

"This is not just a debate about a building," said Soner Cagaptay, Turkey analyst for the Washington Institute. "Atatürk established Hagia Sophia as a museum to underline his vision of secularizing Turkey. And nearly 100 years later, Erdoğan is trying to do the opposite."

"(Erdoğan) feels the pressure of popular support dwindling and therefore he wants to use issues that he hopes will remobilize his right-wing base around nativist, populist, anti-elitist topics," said Cagaptay, author of the book "Erdoğan's Empire."

Built under Byzantine Emperor Justinian, Hagia Sophia was the main seat of the Eastern Orthodox church for centuries, where emperors were crowned amidst ornate marble and mosaic decorations.

Four minarets were added to the terracotta-hued structure with cascading domes and the building was turned into an imperial mosque following the 1453 Ottoman conquest of Constantinople—the city that is now Istanbul.

The building opened its doors as a museum in 1935, a year after the Council of Ministers' decision.

Islamist groups, however, regard the symbolic structure as a legacy of Ottoman Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror and strongly object to its status as a museum. Large crowds have gathered outside Hagia Sophia on the May 31 anniversary of the city's conquest to pray and demand that it be restored as a place of Muslim worship.

In the past few years, Turkey has been allowing readings from the Quran inside Hagia Sophia and Erdoğan himself has recited prayers there. This year, he oversaw

by video conference the recital of the "prayer of conquest" on the anniversary of the Ottoman conquest.

On Tuesday, Istanbul-based Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, considered the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, noted that Hagia Sophia had served as a place of worship for Christians for 900 years and for Muslims for 500 years.

"As a museum, Hagia Sophia can function as a place and symbol of encounter, dialogue and peaceful coexistence of peoples and cultures, mutual understand and solidarity between Christianity and Islam," he said.

Bartholomew added: "the potential conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque will turn millions of Christians across the world against Islam."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also urged Turkey on Wednesday to keep Hagia Sophia as a museum to serve as "an exemplar of its commitment to respect faith traditions and diverse history." He called on the government in Ankara to ensure the structure remains "accessible to all."

Hot news cycle leads CNN to best ratings in 40 years

NEW YORK (AP)—An extraordinary stretch of news with the coronavirus pandemic and racial reckoning triggered by George Floyd's death has led CNN to its biggest audience for any three-month period in the network's 40-year history.

Fox News Channel and MSNBC also had record-setting quarters ending in June, according to the Nielsen company. But CNN's audience increased at a higher pace than its rivals, and it is also seeing strong numbers for its digital operation.

The news is welcome at a network that has been relentlessly attacked for four years by President Donald Trump and his allies, who often mocked CNN as "failing."

"All of our research shows we are the most trusted name in news," Jeff Zucker, chairman of WarnerMedia News and Sports and CNN chief executive, said Wednesday. "Others may not believe that, others may scoff at that, the president of the United States makes fun of it, but it's true."

CNN's weekday prime-time audience of 1.95 million was up 120% over the same period last year, Nielsen said. Fox News, which has led in the ratings for nearly two decades, had an average of 4.07 million viewers, a 43% increase, while MSNBC's count of 2.47 million was up 13% from 2019.

They are routinely the three most-watched networks on all of cable TV.

For the total day, CNN's viewership was up 119% over 2019, Fox jumped by 48% and MSNBC by 34%.

"We are a news organization that is built for this kind of time," Zucker said. "The others in this space are political talk channels, and so even when they're talking about these stories, they're talking about the politics of the stories. We're talking about the news of the stories."

That comment rankled MSNBC President Phil Griffin, who said his network brings an unmatched level of smart, in-depth analysis.

"Our reporters are at the heart of the story, putting themselves in harm's way every day," Griffin said. "They're doing a hell of a lot more than 'political talk.'"

Fox News did not have an immediate comment.

CNN has its share of political talk, especially on its increasingly opinionated prime-time lineup of Anderson Cooper, Chris Cuomo and Don Lemon.

But when politics is the dominant story, that plays more to the strength of Fox and MSNBC, said news consultant Andrew Heyward, a former CBC News president. CNN, meanwhile, can tap a wider network of news affiliates in the United States and has a much larger reporting staff overseas, and that has been invaluable for the pandemic and racial stories, he said.

"CNN built its reputation on broad coverage of breaking news," Heyward said.

Right time to 'get stupid again': Beavis, Butt-Head comeback

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beavis and Butt-Head are coming back to TV in a reimagined version of the animated series about a pair of Gen X slackers.

"It seemed like the time was right to get stupid again," Mike Judge, the creator and voice of both characters, said in a statement.

"Beavis and Butt-Head," which debuted in 1993 on MTV, is moving in its new iteration to ViacomCBS corporate sibling Comedy Central, it was announced Wednesday.

The channel said it has ordered two seasons of the new series that will feature themes "relatable to both new and old fans," including Gen Z kids and their Gen X parents.

Judge will write and pro-

duce the series and again will voice the characters in a deal that includes other spin-offs and specials.

The original series, which drew praise for its social satire and criticism for its raunchy humor and violence, aired until 1997 and was briefly revived in 2011. The characters jumped to the big screen in 1996 with "Beavis and Butt-Head Do America."

"Beavis and Butt-Head were a defining voice of a generation, and we can't wait to watch as they navigate the treacherous waters of a world light-years from their own," Comedy Central executive Chris McCarthy said in the announcement, which didn't include an air date.

Charlize Theron hopes daughters are represented in Hollywood

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlize Theron says she's making choices as a producer and actor to ensure her "two small, beautiful African American daughters" will feel represented on-screen.

The Oscar winner said it can be hard for Black children to "kind of imagine the possibilities" when so few films and television series are centered on characters that look like them.

"I was raised during the Apartheid era in South Africa. So, I come with a lot of that baggage already," Theron said. "I was part of a system that I as a white person benefited from in South Africa. And that's a tremendous amount of guilt that I carried, and still carry my entire life. I'm in therapy over it,"

Theron said in an interview promoting her action thriller "The Old Guard," which hits Netflix July 10.

"It would be impossible for me to not have that somehow be rectified in what I can do in my job as a producer, as an actor—and the responsibility that I take, the accountability that I take of what I put out there for not only my two young girls, but for young girls out there in general."

Director Gina Prince-Bythewood directed "The Old Guard," which was based on a graphic novel and stars Theron alongside an international cast including "Aladdin" star Marwan Kenzari. KiKi Layne plays a U.S. Marine who joins Theron's group of centuries-old immortal warriors.

Actor says 'Justice League' director Whedon was 'abusive'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Ray Fisher says director Joss Whedon's behavior was "abusive" on the set of the 2017 film "Justice League."

"Joss Whedon's on-set treatment of the cast and crew of Justice League was gross, abusive, unprofessional, and completely unacceptable," Fisher, who played the young superhero Cyborg in the DC Comics film, tweeted Wednesday.

Fisher added that Whedon was "enabled, in many ways, by Geoff Johns and Jon Berg," two producers on the film who were executives running DC Films for Warner Bros. Pictures at the time.

Whedon has not responded to Fisher on social media, and emails from The Associated



AP

In this combination photo, actor Ray Fisher arrives at the season three premiere of "True Detective" in Los Angeles on Jan. 10, 2019, left, and Joss Whedon arrives at the premiere of "Bad Times at the El Royale" in Los Angeles on Sept. 22, 2018.

Press to representatives seeking comment from him and from Warner Bros. were not immediately returned.

Berg told Variety that it was "categorically untrue that we enabled any unprofessional behavior."

Whedon, known for his writing and directing on Marvel's "Avengers" films and television's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," was brought in during post-production to replace director Zack Snyder on "Justice League." He oversaw extensive reshoots, editing and visual effects on the film.

At the time of his departure, Warner Bros. said Snyder was stepping away to be with his family following the death of his 20-year-old daughter.

In May, Warner Bros. announced that Snyder's long director's cut of "Justice League" would appear next year on the streaming service HBO Max, something fans had lobbied for since the film's original release with the hashtag ReleaseTheSnyderCut.

Prince Harry addresses institutional racism at Diana Awards

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry stressed the need to tackle institutional racism during a speech he recorded for Wednesday's ceremony for the Diana Awards, a charity for young people set up to honor his late mother.

In a video message shown in the virtual ceremony, the Duke of Sussex said that "institutional racism has no place in our societies, yet it is still

endemic."

"My wife said recently that our generation and the ones before us haven't done enough to right the wrongs of the past," he said. "I, too, am sorry—sorry that we haven't got the world to the place that you deserve it to be."

The speech came on what would have been the 59th birthday of Princess Diana, the prince's mother. She died in a

Paris car crash in 1997, when Harry was 12.

Harry paid tribute to young people being recognized at the ceremony for their work on race and injustice, saying he saw the "greatest hope" in them amid the division and anger in the world.

In 2016, Harry accused the media of harassing Meghan, his then-girlfriend, and criticized "racial undertones"

in some coverage of her. Meghan's mother is Black and her father is white.

She gave a speech last month to students at her old high school in Los Angeles following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The couple now live in Los Angeles with their son, Archie, after they quit as senior working royals earlier this year.

Jay-Z's Made in America festival canceled due to pandemic

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z's annual festival in Philadelphia, Made in America, won't take place Labor Day weekend due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement Wednesday, the rap mogul's Roc Nation company said it plans to produce the popular festival in 2021.

"2020 is a year like no other. We are in a pivotal time in

this nation's history. Collectively, we are fighting parallel pandemics, COVID-19, systematic racism and police brutality. Now is the time to protect the health of our artists, fans, partners and community as well as focus on our support for organizations and individuals fighting for social justice and equality in

our country. Therefore, the Made In America festival will be rescheduled for Labor Day Weekend 2021," Roc Nation said in a statement.

This year's Made In America festival was set to take place Sept. 5-6 at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Roc Nation said tickets for the 2020 event will be valid

in 2021. Ticketholders seeking refunds should look out for an email from Live Nation explaining how to get their money back.

"If anyone would prefer a refund, an email will be sent to request one. For any further ticket inquiries, please reach out to the point of purchase," the statement read.

Neighbor retreats into house after man's stunning request

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 60-year-old woman. My house is on a corner lot. Just about every time I walk outside, a male neighbor of mine stares at me. He looks like a hobo.

I felt bad for him, so when he came to the edge of his yard, I asked him from my deck how he was doing because of the quarantine. He responded by telling me to wear a dress because he wants to have sex with me! I was stunned and went back into the house. I didn't know he was that crazy. Besides ignoring him, what if anything should I do?

SHOCKED NEIGHBOR IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR NEIGHBOR: Because this was a one-time occurrence, it's possible your neighbor may have been "under the influence," or has mental health challenges or a touch of dementia. From now on, ignore him, avoid him and warn the other women in the neighborhood about what happened. If I were one of them, I would like to know.

Other than that, there's not much you can do unless his behavior escalates and he becomes a nuisance. In that case, you may want to go online to the National Sex Offender Registry just to make sure your neighbor is not a registered sex offender. Then it will be time to file a police report.

DEAR ABBY: When seeing a therapist is not an option, I have found writing to be helpful. A cheap spiral-bound school notebook

works great. The idea is to write at least one full page every day.

Some days, all I can say is, "I don't want to write," but I fill that page anyway, so that the commitment is met. However, other days I find I can pour my heart out, unload the things that are hurting me, express my anger, resentments, disappointments and longings. Sometimes, while I'm waiting for the thoughts to come, an insight or solution will present itself.

Because I'm afraid of my thoughts being found and read by someone else, I destroy each page after it's written. Names can be disguised. The simple act of getting those thoughts out of my head and onto paper helps to relieve stress tremendously. Just thought I'd share this with you.

WRITING IT DOWN IN THE EAST

DEAR WRITING: Writing or journaling is a very effective way to organize one's thoughts and purge negative emotions. I'm glad you suggested it because I think it may help some of my readers. Thank you!

DEAR ABBY: I babysit my nieces and nephews. While we are grocery shopping and we get to the checkout, they'll ask for candy or chips. If I tell them no, it's usually because they have already had a treat, it's too close to a meal or perhaps because they have misbehaved.

What do I do when the person behind me offers to buy it for them? I know they assume I refused because I don't have the

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



money, and they are trying to be helpful. Saying, "No, thank you," just upsets the child when he or she knows someone wanted to buy them a treat. Any ideas?

NO MEANS NO IN GEORGIA

DEAR NO MEANS NO: Instead of just saying, "No, thank you," to the person making the offer, explain the reason for your refusal as you have explained it to me. That way, the well-meaning stranger understands that you are not short of funds, and your nieces and nephews hear the reason as well.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

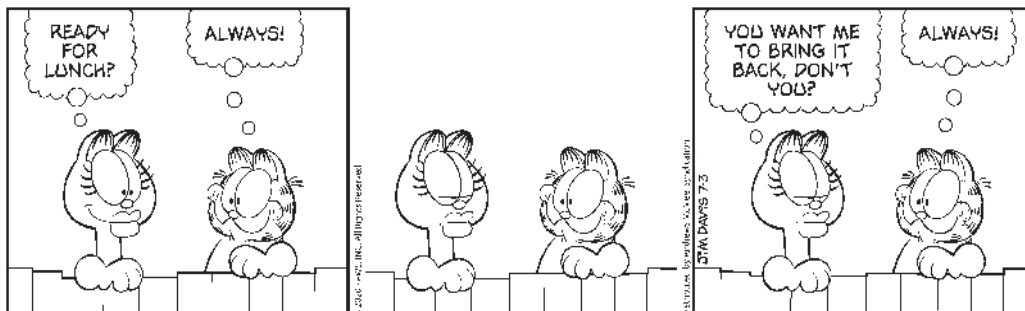
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



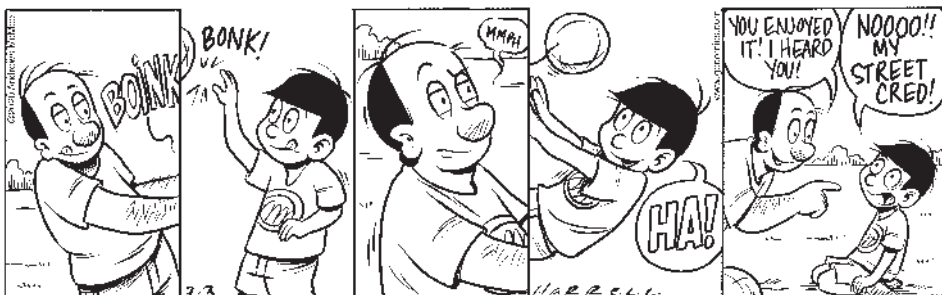
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



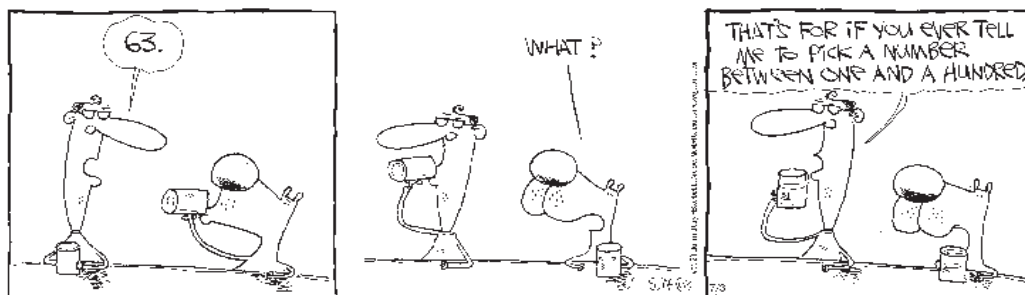
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

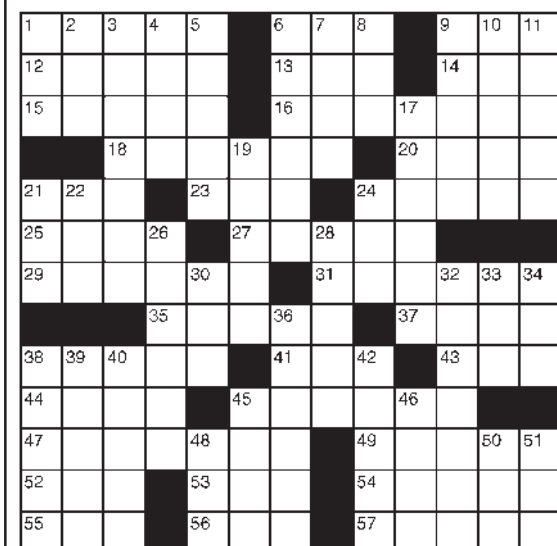
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brick worker
6 Morning moisture
9 Praise in verse
12 Madrid museum
13 Actress Mendes
14 Aug. and Sept.
15 Seraglio
16 Beach footwear
18 Establish by decree
20 Ostrich kin
21 Tax form ID
23 Chang's brother
24 Like snake eyes
25 Tattlers
27 "West Side Story" role
29 Method
31 Thunder sound
35 Fred's dancing partner
37 Thailand, once
38 Left, at sea
- DOWN**
- 1 Speedometer stat
4 Baltic Sea feeder
5 — plume
6 Blueprint band
7 Author Hunter
8 Pallid city
9 Nebraska
10 Parceled (out)
11 Thoreau piece
17 Reveries
19 "What's in —?"
21 Fourth-yr. students
22 Utter A/C measure
24 A/C measure
26 Collar stiffener
28 Peace goddess
30 D.C. summer hrs.
32 Skimp beachwear
33 Chou En-
34 911 responder
36 "Get a move on!"
38 Photographer Adams
39 Sao —, Brazil
40 "Believe it —!"
42 Zac of "Neighbors"
45 Pack cargo
46 Gambling game
48 Sashimi fish
50 Fawn's mom
51 Hoosier St.

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-3



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951. 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Munn, 40; Andrea Barber, 44; Tom Cruise, 58; Montel Williams, 64.

Happy Birthday: Evaluate your life, and prepare to make some worthwhile changes. How you conduct yourself will determine how well you do this year. Intelligence and using your memory to help you gain respect and support will pay off. You can make a difference if you do your part. Be smart when it comes to health, money and relationships. Your numbers are 6, 18, 24, 26, 30, 32, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A domestic situation will pose a problem for you today. Remain calm, and work your way through any obstacles you encounter without overreacting. Remaining collected will be the key factor in finding a solution. If you need an outlet, do something physical. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay away from joint ventures. You will do much better working on your own toward a goal that you want to achieve. The more you do behind closed doors, the less interference you will face and the more you will achieve. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Question whatever seems suspicious or manipulative. Look out for your best interests, and don't get roped into taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. A personal change will lead to positive results. A physical challenge will encourage better health. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Lend a helping hand. Don't let revenge or petty differences stop you from doing what's right.

Take a demonstrative approach, and you will encourage others to contribute. Stick to the truth, and question anyone pressuring or tempting you. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Instigate a new way to socialize in a healthy and forward-thinking manner. Choose a platform that will allow you to combine the people and events you enjoy most. Your innovative style will raise your profile and boost your reputation. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful how you treat the ones you love. You may want to enforce a change, but it's best to ask for input from those who will be affected before you begin. The proper protocol will make a difference to the outcome. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Start a project that makes you look and feel your best. How you deal with personal matters will be reflective of the way things turn out. Don't let a mishap turn into an argument. Understanding and patience are better options. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Head down the information highway. Enrich your mind with knowledge that will help you improve your life and the way you live, work and play. Balance and routine will help you ease stress and accomplish the most. Virtual tours will be enlightening. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Turn your home into the wonderland that will make you want to stay in and stay safe.

Use your imagination to come up with alternative ways to keep you and your family entertained. Remain within your budget. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A revelation will encourage you to make a beneficial change to the way you live. A discussion with those close to you will speed up the process. A positive attitude coupled with hands-on help will turn your suggestion into a reality. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Give and you will receive. How you help others will make a difference as well as bring you satisfaction in knowing you put a smile on someone's face. Reward yourself with something that makes you happy. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take better care of your health and well-being. Refuse to let emotional situations take over. Address issues quickly to avoid outside interference. Find a safe way to help someone in need. A kind gesture will not be forgotten. ★★

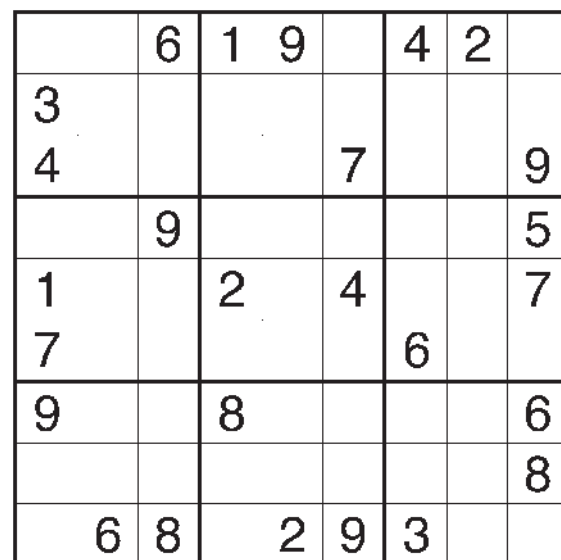
Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, broad-minded and opportunistic. You are emotional and compassionate.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



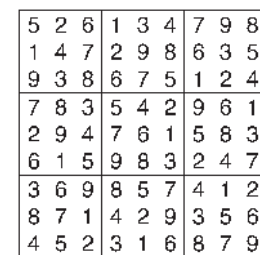
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/03

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



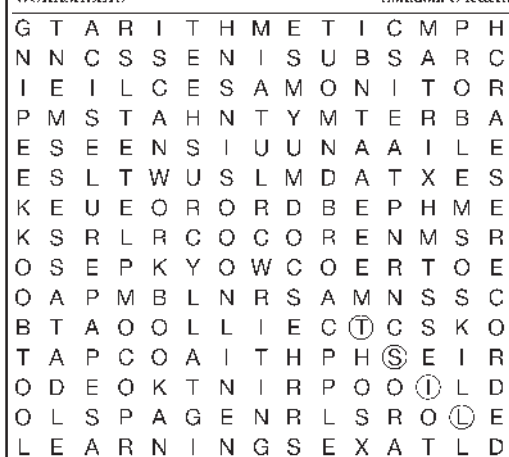
WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WORKSHEETS

Solution: 8 letters



©2000 American McGraw-Hill Education. www.wonderword.com 7/3

Accounting, Answers, Arithmetic, Assessment, Bookkeeping, Business, Cell, Children, Classroom, Columns, Company, Complete, Data, Learning, List, Loose, Loss, Math, Matrix, Monitor, Numbers, Online, Page, Paper, Print, Problems, Recorded, Report, Research, Rows, Rules, School, Sheet, Skill, Students, Tally, Taxes, Tool, Workbook, Writing

Yesterday's Answer: Culinary
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

Embiid, Simmons healthy for NBA restart



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia 76ers coach Brett Brown says All-Star guard Ben Simmons is “good to go” for the NBA restart after sitting out the final games before the shutdown with a back injury.

Brown, whose contract runs through 2021-22, also expected fellow All-Star Joel Embiid to start the season in the best shape of his professional career.

The Sixers need their franchise stars at full strength if one of the early favorites to win the East Conference can shake off both an ordinary regular season (39-26; 6th in the East) and a nearly five-month layoff to return contenders for their first NBA championship since 1983.

The 23-year-old Simmons had missed his eighth straight game and was receiving daily treatment for his nerve issues in his lower back when the season stopped. Embiid was recovering from surgery on his left hand and had just returned after missing five games with a sprained left shoulder at the time of the shutdown.

“I’m looking for Joel to come in as good a shape as he has been in since I have coached him,” Brown said Wednesday.

Simmons, who averaged 16.7 points, 7.8 rebounds and 8.2 assists in 54 games, was hurt in a Feb. 22 game at Milwaukee. He vomited because of the pain and there was no guarantee he would have been ready for the playoffs had the season not been suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Simmons, the league leader in steals, worked out and played pickup games with LeBron James—and videos of the two showed both stars playing without mask. Simmons’ trainer, Chris Johnson, posted video two weeks ago of a shirtless Simmons shooting and dunking.

“He’s good to go. He’s put in a tremendous amount of work for me to be able to confidently say that,” Brown said. “I think when you search for silver linings with this pandemic and the way things have shaped up, it would be hard-pressed for me to find something more obvious than this. It’s enabled Ben to reclaim his health. But I think ‘inching along’ from maybe a month ago, that is not true.”

Embiid has been riddled with injuries since he was drafted with the No. 3 pick of the 2014 draft. Embiid, averaging 23.4 points and 12.3 rebounds, has never played more than 64 games in a sea-



son. He was hindered by illness and knee injuries during last season’s playoff run, and the Sixers worked this season to balance his minutes with the proper amount of rest.

The Sixers signed the 25-year-old Embiid, a native of Cameroon, to a \$148 million, five-year extension that kicked in at the start of the 2018-19 season.

It’s about time for the big man to deliver when the NBA resumes July 30 at Disney’s ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Florida.

“There is nobody on our

team that has put in more time than Joel Embiid,” Brown said. “Forget what he has actually done in the gym for a minute, just go to the man hours and consecutive days and the

AP
In this Feb. 24, 2020 file photo, Philadelphia 76ers’ Joel Embiid (21) goes up to shoot during the first half of an NBA game against the Atlanta Hawks in Philadelphia.

amount of days that he has put in over the past few months. I’m proud of him, I respect him. He needed to do it. We understand the impact he can have on our team.”

Brown also said no player on the Sixers has tested positive for COVID-19 and no player has decided to opt out of the restart.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Clippers coach Doc Rivers says Lou Williams is expected to join the team for the NBA’s restart in Florida.

Williams has described himself as “50-50” on whether he would finish out the pandemic-interrupted season because he didn’t want to distract from the ongoing push for social justice in the wake of George Floyd’s death while in police custody.

“Obviously, up until we get on the plane, anything can happen,” Rivers said during a video conference with media Wednesday. “But I do expect Lou to be with us. I would be very surprised if he’s not.”

Williams, last year’s Sixth Man of the Year, was averaging 18.7 points, 3.1 rebounds and 5.7 assists in 60 games before the league shut down in March due to the coronavirus.

Rivers said he doesn’t think any of the Clippers are opting out from resuming the season. The team heads to Orlando, Florida, on July 8.

“But listen, it is their choice and we support that,” the coach said. “There are so many reasons for everybody to play but there are also very valid reasons for guys to opt out. I don’t think many will. I think they are all invested in what we are trying to do. But again you don’t hold it against anyone on any team. This is extraordinary times and we just have to support each other.”

Guard Landry Shamet echoed other players’ feelings about traveling to Florida at a time when COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise in certain states.

“It’s obviously a concern, but we’re in the best possible situation and scenario to combat that,” he said. “If there’s a scenario where you feel more comfortable it would be being in a bubble. That’s as controlled as any environment can be, so that’s one positive that I’ve been thinking about.”

Rivers added, “I’m hoping when we get to the bubble it becomes the safest place in America.”

Asterisk on NBA title? Coaches, players say not a chance

The 2020 NBA champion, if one is crowned, will have emerged as the ultimate winner from a season that lasted more than a full year from start to finish. A season that saw political unrest between the NBA and China, the deaths of David Stern and Kobe Bryant, racial issues across the nation and, if that wasn’t enough, a pandemic.

It is a season like none other. So, an asterisk-bearing champion? Not a chance.

To the teams in the NBA, this championship might be the toughest one ever claimed. It’ll come after more than three months of living in a quasi-bubble at the Disney complex near Orlando, Florida, after an entire postseason is played without fans, with most if not all that time spent away from friends and family. And only one of the 22 teams headed to Disney will be able to say it was absolutely worth the trouble.

“I’ve heard a lot of people say that there’s going to be,

like, a star next to this championship,” Milwaukee forward and reigning NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said. “I feel like at the end of the day this is going to be like the toughest championship you could ever win because the circumstances are really, really tough right now. So, whoever wants it more is going to be able to go out there and take it.”

He’s not alone in feeling that way.

Most of the 22 teams that will be headed to the Disney campus next week -- the first arrivals are scheduled for July 7—spent Wednesday beginning Phase 3 of the NBA’s restart process. Workouts are still individual, but now mandatory. No team can practice or play 5-on-5 until arriving at Disney. Teams won’t be back together, all at once, in person, until getting to Central Florida.

“I think this might be certainly the most worthy of all world championships in the NBA because of all the things that every team is going to

have to navigate and overcome to be able to be crowned a champion,” Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The season has been daunting and won’t get any easier. That’s why Los Angeles Lakers coach Frank Vogel—whose team was in China when the political issues hit this fall, took the enormous emotional blow that followed Bryant’s death, has championed societal change during these troubled times in the country and has had players infected with the coronavirus—wholeheartedly agrees with Antetokounmpo’s stance.

“Our team has been through a lot this year,” Vogel said. “And we’ve endured, and we’ve come out strong each time we’ve faced adversity. I don’t know about other teams but if we were able to come through all of this and achieve the ultimate prize, I do think it deserves a harder-than-ordinary asterisk. If you’re going to put an asterisk on it, I don’t think it

weakens it at all.”

There are elements of the restart that are not easy for anyone involved, such as the isolation from the outside world, the daily testing, and the highly restrictive rules that the NBA put in place after consultation with health officials.

Denver coach Michael Malone said that will prove someone’s championship mettle.

“If you’re able to go into a bubble to be isolated from your friends and family, to have no home court advantage, to have a league interruption of four months, and you’re able to spend 90 days and come out of there a champion, I think this will be the toughest championship ever won,” Malone said. “There’s no asterisk. You win an NBA championship anytime, it’s a hell of an accomplishment. But in these circumstances, these unprecedented times, with everything going on ... I think it will be a remarkable accomplishment.” (AP)

No Wimbledon, jumbled season and 'Big 4' legacies

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a complete guessing game, but it's still fun to discuss: Will the legacies of the four most prominent and successful tennis players of today — and maybe ever — be affected by the coronavirus-interrupted 2020 season?

And how will Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic—known as the Big Three of the men's game—along with Serena Williams, fare whenever they do return to competition? (Federer is out until 2021 after twice needing arthroscopic knee surgery.)

Call them the Big Four. They rule their sport, on and off the court, and have done so to such an extent that no matter how many wins and losses might come the rest of the way, their places in history are secure. Williams owns 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most in the professional era. Federer has a men's-record 20, Nadal 19 and Djokovic 17; no other man has more than 14.

They drive interest among tennis fans and non-fans, alike.

Let's be honest: What happens with them matters more than with other players, particularly when Williams is trying to equal Margaret Court's all-era mark of 24 majors, and when Nadal and Djokovic are closing in on Federer.

Also intriguing: Their ages. Federer and Williams turn 39 soon; Nadal is 34, Djokovic 33.

"It could be like, 'Huh, I really enjoy spending time at home.' They're not in the rat race. There's no momentum. So emotionally and mentally, they could think, 'Ugh, do I really want to do this again? Do I really want to start up with



The "Big 4", from left, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams, and Novak Djokovic.

AP

training? Can I really, 100%, be focused?" said Chris Evert, an 18-time major champion. "Or, on the other side of the coin, they could have a sense of urgency and think, 'OK, I really need to appreciate my tennis for another year or so and I need to achieve my goals now. I'm not getting any younger.'"

Will the legacies of the four most prominent and successful tennis players of today—and maybe ever—be affected by the jumbled 2020 season?

Wimbledon should have been happening right now but was called off for the first time since 1945 because

of the COVID-19 outbreak. Sanctioned tennis has been suspended since March and, as of now, is scheduled to resume in August; the U.S. Open begins the last day of that month. The French Open, postponed in May, is now slated to start Sept. 27, two weeks after the U.S. Open ends.

"It's much easier to (get) a body ready (that is) 21 years old, than a body that is 34 years old. That is 100 percent. But at the same time, a 34-year-old body and mind have much more experience than a body and mind of 21

years old. So I don't know what's going to happen," Nadal said.

"In general terms, it's better for a young guy, because all this period of time that we lost, a young guy has plenty of time to recover. An older guy, in terms of 'timing,'" Nadal said, using his fingers to signal quotation marks, "we lost the same amount of time, (but) in terms of perspective, it's different. Because losing a year at 34 or 36 or 33, is not the same as losing a year at 20, when you have all your career in front of you."



Perhaps Nadal skips the hard courts of New York, where he's the defending champion, to be better rested and prepared for the red clay of Paris, where he could match Federer's 20 Slam triumphs with No. 13 at Roland Garros. Maybe Djokovic opts to go to the U.S. Open after sounding negative about it, figuring an absent Nadal ups his own chances.

Federer's best shot to add to his total probably would be at Wimbledon, where he's won eight times. Hard to say how many more attempts he'll get.

Williams, meanwhile, made

it to the finals at four of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments, going 0-4. And even if she surprisingly bowed out in the third round at the Australian Open in January, there's little reason to believe she couldn't make another run, especially at the U.S. Open, where she is a six-time champion and was the runner-up in 2018 and 2019.

As for the prolonged break, Williams said: "I felt like my body needed it, even though I didn't want it. And now I'm feeling better than ever. I'm feeling more relaxed, more fit. Now I'm just like: Now I can go out and play real tennis."



NEW YORK—

The NFL is trying to figure out ways to mitigate the risk of a lawsuit if fans are allowed back into stadiums. In order to do that, the league is considering asking fans to sign a COVID-19 liability waiver if they want to attend games, according to reports.

That proposal is expected to be sent to teams in early July as the league considers its options for reopening amid the coronavirus pandemic. The waiver could be done electronically.

While the NFL is moving ahead with training camps as planned, the issue of attendance hasn't been determined yet. The NFL has indicated it wants to proceed with fans in the stands, though league EVP Troy Vincent said the NFL will be flexible based on recommendations from health officials. At least one team—

NFL could ask fans to sign coronavirus waiver

the Pittsburgh Steelers—made only 50 percent of their tickets available in case fans are required to follow social distancing rules.

The issue of safety and best practices regarding fans may come down to each individual team, one frustrated AFC executive said in June.

"The question about fans is going to end up being a choice left up to [teams]—actually, I should say pretty much all the questions on the fan attendance," one frustrated AFC executive said this week. "We haven't heard anything [from the league]. Hopefully that changes [Thursday], because we have a lot of questions."

Fans hoping to attend games shouldn't expect to sit in the front row. The NFL will block off the front rows in each stadium for advertisements, according to Robinson. That will

allow the league to make more money if stadiums can only be at partial capacity.

While nothing has been finalized yet, talk of a waiver suggests the NFL will green light fans attending games depending on local and state guidelines. If that happens, it sounds like fans will have to acknowledge the risk they are taking by going to games during a pandemic before they can attend.

Cutting preseason, pushing back start

The NFL will cut its preseason in half and push back the start of exhibition play so teams have more time to train following an all virtual offseason made necessary by the coronavirus pandemic, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because the league hasn't announced that the preseason will be cut from four games to two.

The pandemic forced teams to conduct their entire off-season programs via video-conference. So, teams will be gathering together for the first time when training camps open July 28.

Minus the usual minicamps, on-field practices and in-person weight training from April to June, players' conditioning won't be what it normally is. So, eliminating the first week of preseason games Aug. 13-16 will give them more time to ratchet up their football fitness.

Teams will now play exhibitions Aug. 20-24 and Aug. 27-31 during what were originally the second and third weeks of exhibition play with all 32 teams playing one home and one road game.

Most of those games will remain the same as originally scheduled although some matchups in that second slate will have to be changed so every team gets a game at home.

The exhibition finales on Sept. 3 were also scrapped, giving teams more time to get ready for the regular season, which opens Sept. 10 with Houston at Kansas City.

Meanwhile, the Green Bay Packers said Wednesday they have signed Utah State quarterback Jordan Love and Boston College running back A.J. Dillon, their top two draft picks.

Green Bay gave the Miami Dolphins a fourth-round draft choice to move up four spots in the first round and take Love 26th overall in the April draft. The Packers chose Dillon at No. 62.

Both selections were some-

what surprising because the Packers already have two-time MVP Aaron Rodgers at quarterback and Aaron Jones at running back. Jones tied Tennessee's Derrick Henry for the NFL lead in touchdown runs (16) and matched Carolina's Christian McCaffrey for first place in total touchdowns (19) last season.

Love is considered the eventual heir apparent to the 36-year-old Rodgers. Dillon provides some insurance with Jones' contract set to expire in 2021.

There are no changes to the regular season schedule.

The league continues to draw up protocols, not only for COVID-19 mitigation but for ramping up practices during the first few weeks of training camp.

The annual Hall of Fame Game pitting Pittsburgh and Dallas on Aug. 6 was recently scrapped as the induction ceremonies were pushed back to 2021. (AP/NBC)

MLB players begin reporting for tests as workouts near



NEW YORK
(AP)—Yoán Moncada

has spent the past couple of months working out in what he called a “controlled and limited environment” in Florida, where the White Sox slugger could continue to get at-bats while protecting himself from the coronavirus.

That’s a good description of the environment that greeted him upon his return to Chicago.

Players began reporting to their teams and home ballparks Wednesday in the most significant step yet as Major League Baseball presses ahead with its plan for a 60-game sprint of a season. Most players underwent a battery

of health checks, not only for COVID-19 but also for any other lingering ailments from spring training, ahead of planned workouts beginning Friday and Saturday.

“We were doing workouts by time, you know? You have to reserve a time. I wasn’t interacting with a lot of people there,” Moncada said of his sessions in Florida. “The last couple of weeks I started lifting a little bit. I was hitting with limitations that we had during this situation. But I feel good. I’m ready to go.”

Much like other clubs, the White Sox intend to split their 60-man roster into two groups, one working out in the morning and the other in the after-



The bronze statue entitled “The Player,” by sculptor George Lundeen stands in front of the main gate of Coors Field, home of Major League Baseball’s Colorado Rockies, Tuesday, June 23, 2020, in Denver.

noon. All players will have their temperatures checked multiple times each day, observe increased social distancing and get accustomed to stringent safeguards that MLB has put into place for the season.

“That’s going to be differ-

ent to see and feel as a team,” Moncada said. “We’ll have to wait and see Friday how it goes.”

The Yankees won’t hold their first full-team workout until Saturday, even though manager Aaron Boone said players began intake testing

Wednesday. That’s when he plans to address the team for the first time—also in waves.

“We’ll have to get creative with how we communicate,” said Boone, who plans to make the same speech three or four times.

Faced with the prospect of playing 60 games in 66 days, time-consuming safety protocols, the responsibility to remain diligent health-wise off the field and the general anxiety of working amid a

pandemic, Boone believes focus and toughness can be as important to a team this season as baserunning or bullpen management.

“How do you deal with that mentally and emotionally?” Boone asked. “How you’re able to separate that out when you take the field each and every night? There’s an advantage to be had there.”

After gauging workloads for pitchers during the shutdown, Boone expects his starters will be ready to face live hitters on the first day of summer camp. He plans to stay flexible on usage and may consider using a six-man rotation or openers, but nothing has been determined yet as all teams adjust to a new norm.

CHALLENGE

From Page 28

stay in shape, physically and mentally, as we battle this COVID-19 pandemic.

For the swim part, the sexagenarian’s preferred spot is the waters off Kili Beach or Oleai and he swims every lunch break for one hour on weekdays and will incorporate long swim time for some of the weekends. Sitchon’s run route is from Beach Road to Marpi and usually on weekends and either early in the morning or after office hours. For the bike part, Sitchon is doing long rides every Sunday and will try to squeeze in short ones in some weekdays.

“I will try to reshuffle the schedule from time to time, depending on my work load. If I am busy, I will go for easy ride or easy run,” said Sitchon, whose been competing in run, bike, and swim races for decades here and in the Philippines.

New York City Marathon participant Rommel Buenaflor took on the 100-mile run challenge and loves the idea of going back to training mode and

being part of a good cause. All the proceeds from the Go The Distance Challenge will be used to purchase PPEs for frontliners, according to Urban Fitness’ James Sardea.

“Since we had this pandemic and we don’t have races, I’ve gained weight. This event is a good way to get back in shape and at the same time help the people who are leading our fight against the COVID-19 virus,” said Buenaflor, who will log the needed mileage as he runs along Isa Drive and Airport Road.

“Mileage will be different every day and I will treat this event as my training run,” Buenaflor said.

Raymund Tolentino and his wife, Kathleen, also joined the 100-mile challenge. The couple used to run regularly, but when restrictions were imposed to combat this pandemic, the Tolentinos’ routine changed.

“Now we’re back and will need to work hard to reach the target miles. We missed the races/events on Saipan,” said Raymund, whose favorite run route is from Beach Road to the Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park.

Tudela wins 2020 Gold’s Gym International Challenge

Less than a week after ruling the Gold’s Gym Saipan Challenge, Patrick Tudela Jr. came out victorious anew after winning the 2020 Gold’s Gym International Challenge.

Tudela prevailed in the roster of winners of the transformation challenge among Gold’s Gym’s franchises, which are spread across the world. He defeated Russia’s Denis Batakov, Mexico’s Paddy Rivas, and Australian’s Steven Cooks.

“As mentioned, Gold’s Gym Saipan’s overall winners (male/female) were submitted to the 2020 Gold’s Gym International Challenge. This is the first time they have run the International component to the challenge and the results are out. We are so proud,” Gold’s Gym general manager Tyce Mister said.

Tudela was among the 49 individuals who participated in the Gold’s Gym Saipan Challenge, a 12-week transformation journey and finished on top of the 26 who completed the challenge. He



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Patrick Tudela Jr.’s transformation earned him a victory in the 2020 Gold’s Gym International Challenge.

led the group which lost over 315 lbs. Participants averaged 12.2 lbs per person loss and 11.5 lbs of that was fat body mass. The group’s estimated decrease in percentage body

fat averaged a 4.2% drop.

Meanwhile, in the women’s division, Gold’s Gym Saipan Challenge champion Venue Raguine was ranked third in the international category. The

Netherlands’ Liduina Verbeek and Russia’s Victoria Korobochka took the first and second place honors, while Mexico’s Angelica Gonzales placed fourth. (Saipan Tribune)

NEW

From Page 28

the 2018-19 season for a winning percentage of .733—the team’s highest regular-season win percentage in the history of the program.

In singles, Heras played No. 3 for the Trailblazers and tallied a 9-5 mark. Besides getting the Rookie of the Year award, she was also named to the First Team All-RMAC Doubles with Carlon.

The CNMI player hopes to pick up where she left, as she suits up for MSU Denver.

“My goals when playing for Metro would be to make an impact in their lineup, improve myself physically and mentally in this sport, and bring positive motivation toward my teammates

(especially at 6am gym sessions). I’m so excited for this transfer and can’t wait to play in the spring season,” Heras said.

With the Roadrunners and in the PAC-West, Heras will square off against players from Hawaii Pacific University, Azusa Pacific University, Fresno Pacific, Point Loma Nazarene, University of Hawaii-Hilo, Corcordia (Irvine), Academy of Arts, Dominican University of California, Biola University, Chaminade University, and Holy Names University.

MSU Denver is coached by Josh Graetz, who used to play for the Roadrunners and also a Rookie of the Year awardee (2013-2014) after setting a school record of 24 singles win.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isabel Heras, center, celebrates with her Dixie State University teammates and coaches after they ruled the 2019 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships.



Embiiid,
Simmons
healthy for
NBA restart

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

No Wimbledon,
jumbled season
and 'Big 4'
legacies

PAGE 26



28 FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

New season, new team for Heras

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI National Tennis Team member

Isabel Heras will be playing for a new team and a highly competitive conference in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II in her second season in the collegiate ranks.

Heras, who represented the Commonwealth in last year's Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, is heading to Colorado to play for Metropolitan State University of Denver in the spring season.

"I will be playing tennis on scholarship for Metropolitan State University of Denver. I am grateful for the opportunity to play for this team as they are now in the PAC-West, a competitive conference," said Heras, who is on



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Isabel Heras, seen in this file photo playing in a local tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts, will play for Metropolitan State University of Denver in the spring season.

island and will join her new squad next month.

The CNMI player started his collegiate career with Dixie State University in Utah

and had an impressive freshman season. Heras took the Rookie of the Year honors in the 16-team Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and

helped the Trailblazers win the 2019 RMAC Championships, incidentally against the Commonwealth player's new team. While playing for Dixie

State in the 2018-2020 season, the 21-year-old student-athlete posted a 9-6 record in the doubles (No. 1 doubles with teammate Yoleno Carlon)

and defeated every team they faced in the conference. The Trailblazers were 11-4 during

See NEW on Page 27



Sitchon



Buenaflor



Tolentino

Challenge accepted!

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the triathlon community in the CNMI are up to the task, as they take on the Go The Distance Challenge.

A virtual event organized by Urban Fitness Project Team from Guam, Go the Distance Challenge participants are asked to complete one of the four races—50-mile walk, 30-mile swim, 300-mile bike, 100-mile run, in one month (from July 30). The brave ones could also enter the "Ultimate Challenge," by doing three events. Daily mileage/results are recorded via Strava App and sent to organizers, and participants who will complete the event/events will receive finisher shirts and medals (except for 50-mile walk) at the end of this month.

Triathlon Association of the CNMI secretary general

Ricky Castro said around 40 Saipan residents joined the Go The Distance Challenge and participants were spread into four categories and there were some who also accepted the "Ultimate Challenge."

"We are joining the event not just to challenge ourselves, but also help our counterparts in Guam," said Castro, who is doing the 300-mile bike race.

Ironman veteran Manny Sitchon is entered in the "Ultimate Challenge," where participants have to complete 30-mile swim, 300-mile bike, and 100-mile run for adults division and 15-mile swim, 150-mile bike, and 50-mile run for U17 and under athletes.

Sitchon said he had already planned his strategy to finish the races for one month and said the event is a great way to

See CHALLENGE on Page 27

